





## NEWS IN BRIEF

## London zoo chooses new cut-price look

London zoo will announce next week that it has rejected an ambitious £61 million redevelopment plan and will instead opt for a more conservative £18 million in-house scheme. The zoo's governing council made the decision after a committee, which had spent a month examining the two rival bids, recommended the plan drawn up by Jo Gipps, the zoo's acting chief executive.

Under the ten-year redevelopment the Mappin Terraces will be rebuilt. Bears will be returned to the main terraces and wild goats will once again roam on the top level. The aquarium, which is under the terraces, will also be tidied up.

One council member, who wanted to remain anonymous, said last night that he was relieved the council had rejected the plan drawn up by David Laing, of the construction family, which would have built a walk-through aquarium and a cinema complex.

## Male rape victim 'lied'

Police investigating the gang rape of a man on Hampstead Heath in London said yesterday that the victim had lied about being abducted from an Underground train at gunpoint. The 19-year-old student hairdresser originally said that his three attackers, one armed with a handgun and one with a knife, had frogmarched him from the rush-hour train and through busy streets to the heath. Det Insp Jim Davidson said yesterday that the man had been the victim of a serious sexual assault, but had gone to the heath of his own accord between 9pm and 10pm. "We cannot comment on his reasons for not telling us the truth originally," he said. The search for the attackers is continuing.

## Rachel murder clue



Detectives hunting the killer of Rachel Nickell, left, murdered on Wimbledon Common on July 15, are pursuing an important new lead. It is hoped vital new information given by viewers of BBC's *Crimewatch* may lead police to her murderer. A total of 812 calls were made to police after the programme last month. Twelve more people who were on the Common have come forward.

## Crown jewels expand

The Tower of London is to expand its Jewel House at a cost of £10 million to cut queues to see the crown jewels. Work starts on Monday on the new display area, which will be three times larger and able to take 2,500 visitors an hour — four times the present capacity. Moving pavements will carry visitors past the coronation crown and the imperial state crown at busy times and the display will be on the ground floor of the Duke of Wellington's barracks, rather than on two levels as now, to give better disabled access.

## Traffic jam waste

Traffic jams cost Britain £15 billion a year in wasted fuel, overtime payments, and lost production, a report from the Royal Automobile Club and the Freight Transport Association says. *Britain's Motorways: Are Customers Getting the Best Return?* says that lorries and vans using the M25 in London each waste 90 hours a year, costing about £1,500 per driver. The two groups want the government to appoint motorway managers responsible for co-ordinating roadworks and improving traffic information.

## Iraq rejects appeal

A Baghdad court has rejected appeals by Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright, the two Britons jailed in Iraq after being accused of illegally entering the country. The appeals were made on Saturday but details emerged only yesterday from the Russian diplomats who are representing them on Britain's behalf. New appeals are to be lodged with the Supreme Legal Commission, Iraq's highest legal body, and a lawyer is to be instructed to plead on their behalf.

## Major's counter-attack looks more like retreat

By PETER RIDDELL  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Major government yesterday spluttered into a counter-attack, though it looked more like a retreat after the worst week of its near two-year life.

On every side there has been an impression this week of shambles in decision-making and presentation in Downing Street, yesterday overshadowing the Birmingham summit. At present, John Major does not look a prime minister with a firm grip on events.

The government has no choice but to change its pit-

closure policy before next Wednesday's Commons debate after the eruption of protest in the country. This is even leaving aside any complications resulting from the miners' action in the courts.

When the chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee says that the approach on pit closures is "unacceptable", then something has to change, even when the chairman is as maverick and inconsistent a figure as Sir Marcus Fox. The government is going to have to alter the phasing of the closures and redundancies or provide more help for the affected miners and commu-

## COMMENTARY

nities if it is to be sure of a majority in next Wednesday's debate.

Every action the government has taken in recent days has undermined its vulnerability. Tory MPs and industrialists may have been calling for a reduction in interest rates to end the recession but yesterday's one-point cut looked a panic response to the dispute over pit closures rather than a considered development of a coherent policy.

The interest rate decision contradicts the Bank of En-

gland's clear signal to the money markets earlier this week of no change in interest rates, as well as recent comments by the Treasury. It is unclear what has suddenly changed in the prospects for inflation yesterday morning to justify a cut.

No wonder the financial markets and MPs were unimpressed. No one is going to take the government's pledges on fighting inflation on trust. Even though the pro-European members of the cabinet favour re-entry into the exchange rate mechanism in time, as does Mr Major, uncertainties about economic

policy do not help. The confusion over the way the government reached its decision on pit closures may be largely a media-driven diversion from the central issue, but the succession of different stories about what happened has vividly illustrated Downing Street's lack of touch.

All this happened on a day that was supposed to mark the relaunch of Mr Major's European policy. The prime minister did get his piece of paper on subsidiarity in the Community from yesterday's summit — the Birmingham Declaration. That should help the Tory whips to rally back-

benchers ahead of the general Commons debate on Europe in two weeks and may assist when the committee stage of the Maastricht bill starts, possibly next month. But many questions were left unresolved about how subsidiarity will work in practice, leaving a lot to be done before the Edinburgh summit in two months.

But the Birmingham Declaration was a secondary matter yesterday. What will really determine the fate not just of the Maastricht treaty but also of the Major government is what happens to the economy and to industry. Mr Major still has everything to do.

## Mortgage cut raises hopes of upturn in house market

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

MORTGAGE rates are on the way down again for the fourth time this year. From December the base mortgage rate will be 9.25 per cent or lower for most borrowers. This is the lowest mortgage rate since 1978.

Most borrowers will have payments reduced in November and December. In late September, base mortgage rates were cut by 0.75 per cent to 9.99 per cent or 9.95 per cent for new borrowers and from November for existing ones. Borrowers with a £50,000 endowment loan should see payments fall by a total of £51 to £328 by December.

Abbey National, the second largest lender, National & Provincial Building Society and Northern Rock Building Society were the first to announce cuts. Other lenders are expected to follow next week.

Abbey National had on Tuesday announced a 0.35 per cent cut from December in anticipation of a base rate cut. It also delayed its November 0.75 per cent cut to December. The three lenders to announce cuts have made a total reduction of 1.5 per cent for the two 1 per cent base rate cuts.

Abbey borrowers with larger loans will get smaller reductions. The new rate on loans over £60,000 will be 9.05 per cent and above £100,000 it will be 8.85 per cent. The Abbey's fixed rate mortgage at 8.49 per cent will be withdrawn at noon on Tuesday.

The Halifax will announce its reduction next week. The chief executive, Jim Birrell, said: "This is the sort of good news that the housing market needs. The Halifax is in the process of delivering a reduc-

tion in mortgage rates on November 1. We now look forward to a further cut in December and will shortly be announcing our new mortgage rates."

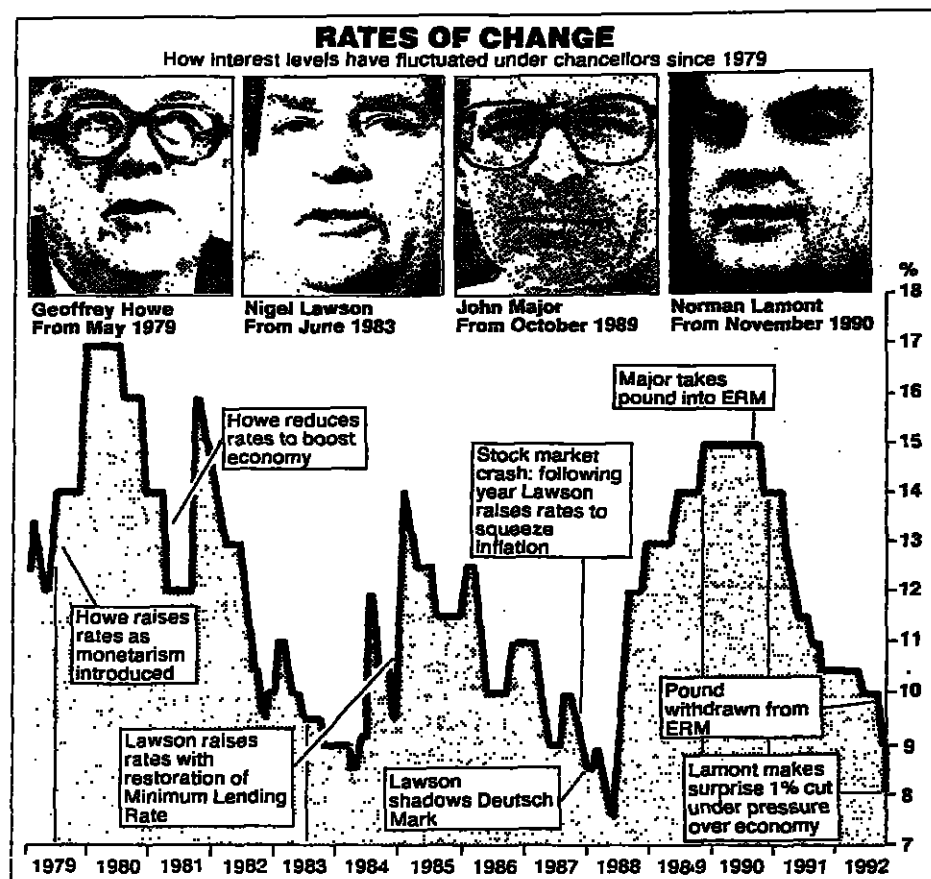
The largest lender withdrew its fixed rate mortgage at 8.45 per cent launched on Thursday and launched another yesterday at 7.99 per cent fixed until January 31, 1995.

The Leeds, the fifth largest society, will cut its mortgage rate next week. Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said: "Today's interest rate cut offers a glimmer of hope at the end of a very bleak week. The Leeds has set its fixed rate mortgage at 7.95 per cent."

Nationwide, the second largest society, expects to make an announcement next week of its rate cut. This will have immediate effect for new borrowers and from December for existing ones. Its November cut to 9.95 per cent is still going ahead.

Alliance & Leicester's group chief executive Peter White said the cut was "very good news. I can only hope that it has some effect on restoring confidence in the housing market. We will be going ahead with our reduction to 9.99 per cent for existing borrowers, as planned and already underway from November 1 but will be reviewing our rates for borrowers and savings during the next few days in the light of this reduction."

The Woolwich said the base rate cut was "not overly good news for investors and said it would mean a "balancing act" to please four million savers as well as 550,000 borrowers. The base rate cut on its own will not be enough to stimulate



## WHAT 2% MORTGAGE CUT MEANS

LOAN SIZE	OLD PAYMENT	NEW PAYMENT	DIFFERENCE
10,000	78.23	71.11	7.13
20,000	156.46	142.21	14.25
30,000	234.70	213.32	21.38
40,000	303.28	288.44	14.84
50,000	371.85	353.55	18.30
60,000	440.43	424.43	16.00
70,000	509.00	493.00	16.00
80,000	577.58	561.58	16.00
90,000	646.15	630.15	16.00
100,000	714.73	698.73	16.00

LOAN SIZE	OLD PAYMENT	NEW PAYMENT	DIFFERENCE
10,000	66.88	57.81	9.06
20,000	133.75	115.63	18.13
30,000	200.63	173.44	27.19
40,000	267.50	237.92	29.58
50,000	334.38	302.60	31.78
60,000	401.25	367.92	33.33
70,000	468.13	433.25	34.88
80,000	535.00	498.57	36.43
90,000	601.88	563.89	37.99
100,000	668.75	629.21	39.54

Sources: Abbey National

## Public sector pay is likely to be frozen

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY'S decision to reduce interest rates has made the government even more determined to meet the £244.5 billion public spending ceiling next year, with the £50 billion public sector pay bill now emerging as the main target for savings. Hundreds of thousands of public sector employees face a pay freeze next year and pay review bodies covering the pay of 1.3 million workers may be suspended.

After three days of meetings against a background of growing economic gloom, the special Cabinet committee on public spending is now desperate to find justifiable cut-backs that will not further dent the government's credibility.

Ministers argue that a freeze or minimal pay rise for Britain's five million public sector employees is one of the most politically acceptable ways of meeting the ceiling.

Nearly £3 billion could be saved by a pay freeze, while

every 1 per cent off the 3.5 per cent pay assumption used in next year's spending baseline would save the Exchequer about £800 million. Norman Lamont is now said to be keen to set an unofficial pay bill ceiling of 0.2 per cent, allowing employers flexibility to introduce performance-related pay.

While capital projects, health spending and social security benefits are also expected to be hit, it is now argued that swinging cuts in these areas would not be so easy to defend.

With unemployment estimates rising almost daily, the government expects a social security bill at least £4 billion higher than the £76 billion allowed for in spending plans. Ministers point out that pay freezes are now common in the private sector and there is no reason why public sector employees should be protected from the recession.

Officials emphasised that Mr Heseltine had kept the Cabinet regularly informed about the progress of the electricity generators' negotiations with British Coal, and the implications of those negotiations. Cabinet ministers had known for some time that the decision was to be made, and there had been detailed discussions of a redundancy package.

A government source said: "If the leaks hadn't happened, it would have gone to Cabinet, and been announced to Parliament in the normal way."

However the official line was challenged when MPs pointed out that if the timetable, set out by British Coal on Tuesday had gone ahead, the first pits would have closed 48 hours before Mr Heseltine told the Commons.

## Summit leaves reality behind

Continued from page 1 even printed its entire front page in French in case continental visitors were unaware of the little local difficulties.

In the end the threatened invasion of Centenary Square never materialised. A few made it to the designated demo pavement where they chanted: "No job losses," and held up banners saying: "This government is the pits. Shut it down." They had to join an assortment of the malcontented parading grievances: "Is Bosnia Europe's abortion?", "Maas-trick No!" and "Maas-trick is a Major disaster". Even anti-apartheid demonstrators were there, along with protesters against the Indian government.

The leaders saw little of it, as they had only to cross a covered bridge over the convention

centre. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, did go on a brief walkabout on Thursday evening, confusing his security guards and most of the great Birmingham public whom he greeted warmly in German.

Other leaders were captured on camera as they crossed the bridge, sighing perhaps. Despite official adoption of the ideology of glasnost, none showed much enthusiasm for camera-captured government, and conducted their sessions, as usual, in huffer-mugger. Poul Schluter, the Danish prime minister, whose country was ultimately responsible for all the tooting and toting here, produced another surprise: a little red apple, which he tossed across to Mr Major to show him what subsidiarity is all about. The apple, a tasty Ingrid Maria, is a few millimetres too small for the

Euro-apple classification, and Brussels has decreed that it be crushed for juice but not sold to eat. Mr Major, already driven from his European Eden by the Danish referendum, did not take a bite.

The big, perhaps sole winner of the day, was the city of Birmingham. Euro-enthusiasm was not jaded here: banners hung across every street, roadworks hoardings had been painted blue with gold stars and correctly coloured pansies sprouted freshly in municipal beds.

The day began with prayers for the summit's success from Europhile clergy; it ended with Mr Major producing a mouse on subsidiarity and struggling for his political life through a press conference on the pits and the economy. Few European summits have seemed so unreal.

**DOW'S PORT**

From THE GREAT AGE of Port Drinking.

Speech bubbles: "Dow's as you would be done by.", "I'm listing to port.", "It's the wildest thing you can say after dinner.", "Ouvrez le port s'il vous plait.", "A little of what you love, Dow's.", "Atishoo, Atishoo, they all fall DOW'S.", "Getting Dow's in my glass?", "Sp. exp. 100% pure.", "Get some Dow's in your mouth."



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## Two UK backpackers beaten to death on tour of Himalayas

By TIM JONES

TWO more young British backpackers have been murdered. The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Joanna Stickland, 28, and Paul Miles, 27, were killed eight days ago while walking in the foothills of the Himalayas. One report said that they had been beaten to death with shovels.

Two of their attackers, believed to have been Nepalese labourers, were seized by other workers and are being held by Indian police, who are searching for a third member of the gang.

Miss Stickland, from Bath, and Mr Miles, from Teignmouth, Devon, met as

students at Nottingham Polytechnic. They moved to Bath, where they worked in a pasta shop and made plans to travel.

The couple, who had been abroad since August, were walking in the Joshimath area of Uttar Pradesh when they were attacked. Their bodies have been cremated and their ashes will be flown back to Britain.

Last night Mrs Jane Stickland said: "This was to be Jo's and Paul's final travelling experience before settling down to life. They were extremely close and loved each other very much. They were going to return home soon to set up a life together, using the

knowledge and experience they had gained from their travels.

"They were real travellers, not tourists. They didn't stick to the beaten track. When they went somewhere, they really explored, finding out everything about the country and the culture. Jo and Paul were just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Mr Stickland said: "We don't know why they were killed. They were cremated in Christian fashion, and hopefully there was a priest present."

Joanna's sister, Claire Meunier, who returned to Bath from her home in Paris, said: "Jo was life and laughter and Paul was her life."

Celia Honer, the couple's former employer, said: "They worked very hard and they saved all their money for their travelling. It was all they ever talked about. Going to India together was their dream. It is horrific that it should end like this."

It is understood the couple may have been travelling in the Himalayan foothills on a Royal Enfield motor cycle which they bought in India.

The Foreign Office and the Indian police are trying to trace an expatriate British couple, known only as Sean and Mel, who live in Goa in Southern India. It is believed Joanna and Paul were due to spend Christmas with them and that they may have been looking after some of their belongings.

Last month, Australian police discovered the bodies of two other British backpackers, Joanne Walters, 22, and Caroline Clarke, 21, in shallow graves 80 miles southwest of Sydney. They are thought to have been hitch-hiking to Melbourne.

Four Britons were murdered in Angola in January. Susan Kirby, from Doncaster, was shot and wounded in Sydney in May, and Jonathan Farmer was hacked to death as he jogged on Lamu island, Kenya.

Every year 200,000 Britons put on backpacks and go abroad in search of adventure, according to STA, the student travel agency.

Advice to women travellers includes three Cs: common sense — for example, do not take a short cut through a dark alley or go into a pub in a bikini, and carry valuables in a moneybelt and padlock the backpack; compromise: follow local customs, for example on dress and behaviour; and confidence: if you expect people to grab your money or to try to rape you, you will appear nervous and attract more attention.



Paul Miles and Joanna Stickland: their last trip

## Gold smuggled in hollow car bumpers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE mastermind behind a smuggling racket which brought gold worth £35 million into Britain and made millions out of VAT fraud was convicted at Southwark Crown Court yesterday after a customs investigation.

Investigators believe the smuggling trips cost £5 million in lost VAT and were organised by Robert Neil, who began operations while on bail pending an appeal for a previous conviction for evading VAT. Consignments of bullion openly bought from a Luxembourg bank were hidden in cars and then brought in to Britain by couriers.

Neil, 54, of west London, was convicted yesterday after a nine-month case, with Norma Boxall, 46, unemployed of Croydon, south London, who was said to be a courier, and Michael Patrick Taylor, 26, unemployed, of Islington, north London, a minder. Taylor is Neil's stepson.

The three were convicted after four days of deliberation by the jury of conspiracy to cheat the public revenue. Last night the jury was sent to a

hotel before continuing to consider verdicts on another seven defendants today.

At the beginning of the trial in January, Stuart Lawson Rogers, for the prosecution, said the gold was hidden in the front bumpers of cars. Crucial to the operation was the type of car used which had hollow front bumpers. One model also had two hollow sections in its bodywork which were filled with gold bars.

The gold would be hidden in the cars and driven to the Channel ports to be ferried to Britain. Neil was the mastermind who did some of the smuggling himself, Mr Rogers said.

The case was brought after a team of five investigators from a special VAT fraud team began an operation code-named Baby-sitter in 1990. In October 1990 Neil used two identical cars for a smuggling run. One was taken to France with Taylor's help, loaded with gold and left at Calais. Boxall then took the second over to Calais, picked up the one loaded with gold and brought it into Britain.

Chiffon chic: two processions of models show off the latest look in Paris from Karl Lagerfeld, the energetic designer who manages to combine between five fashion houses creating more than a dozen collections a year. At his own-label show in a tent in the Louvre yesterday (he showed his Chloé collection on Wednesday and his Chanel show is next Monday) he redrew the prevailing fashionable silhouette of long and skinny (Liz Smith writes).

He flattered chiffon, plain or flowered, in layers with skinny long skirts, cropped tops and chiffon trousers. He played around with cobweb lace inset into long strappy slip dresses and showed how to let a white shirt hang out under a cropped jacket and still look polished and chic.

There were a couple of disasters in swagged black crepe that looked like Vietnamese mourning drapes, but his evening dresses of tiers of shirring inset with bands of black lace looked pretty. Section 3, page 12

## Peeping Tom pays the price for suing council

A JOBLESS man who sued a county council, claiming £10,000 for injuries he said he received after tripping on a broken kerbstone, was revealed in court yesterday as a peeping Tom who fell from a ladder while staring through a window at a woman in bed.

Judge Jack told Charles Kinsella at Dorchester Crown Court: "Public money has been wasted by a claim which was wholly dishonest from the start." He dismissed the claim but he decided against asking the Director of Public

Prosecutions to consider bringing a case of perjury against Mr Kinsella, 42, of Bradpole, Bridport.

Mr Kinsella had sued Dorset County Council, as the highways authority, saying he had broken his ankle tripping over the kerbstone in June 1990. But the judge believed Mr Kinsella's next-door neighbour, Alison Yates, who told the court: "He was up in his old peeping Tom tricks again."

The judge said he found "unconvincing" Mr Kinsella's account that he had

fallen over the kerbstone after drinking seven pints at a local pub. The judge found that the Yates family told the truth when they said they saw Mr Kinsella crawling from their garden after falling off a ladder he had placed by their bedroom window.

Peter Yates thought justice had been done by the injury Mr Kinsella sustained after peering at his wife through their bedroom window, the court was told. But his wife Alison was angered at hearing Mr Kinsella was suing the county.

## Asian wife 'emotionally blackmailed to marry'

By RAY CLANCY

AN ASIAN woman who says that she was emotionally blackmailed into an arranged marriage yesterday sought an annulment in a court case that could open the floodgates for similar claims.

Lawyers for Shamshad Mahmood, 26, argued that her marriage to Zahid Mahmood, who is now living in Pakistan after being deported and is opposing the annulment, told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that she was threatened by her parents. Ronald Clancy, counsel for Mrs Mahmood, said that her parents threatened to disown her, throw her out of the family home and turn the Pakistani community against her if she did not consent to the marriage. He argued that she felt sufficiently frightened to agree to their demands and was married in 1988.

Eileen Davis, counsel for Mr Mahmood, argued that any threat made by the parents was not strong or violent enough to warrant an annulment under Scottish or English law. The test for threats to be justified under Scots law was that there had to be threats of such violence that she was forced into agreeing to the marriage under duress and fear for her life, Mrs Davis said. Under English law the parameters were similar, namely that the victim felt fear for life, limb and liberty.

She argued that Mrs Mahmood had had plenty of time to think about the marriage and she made a decision fully aware of the consequences.

Lord Sutherland reserved judgment in the case.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Back to the 1930s

It was the week the government of John Major managed the impossible: with a single, clumsy announcement it transformed Arthur Scargill into the most popular man in Britain. It also deepened its own crisis to the point where it may not survive the winter. Day by day the clouds grow darker.



unemployment rising at one a minute, businesses closing down in their thousands, homes repossessed, increased social and political unrest... Britain has known nothing like it since the 1930s. How have we got here? How do we dig ourselves out? Who is to blame?

Tomorrow's Sunday Times will make the most uncomfortable reading yet for the Major government

## A BBC RADIO ONE FM DOCUMENTARY

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97 TO 99 FM



and very hard driving... something moving" Mr Foster said.

UC30th

UC15

UC16 (Colour Viewfinder)

UC10

E200

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E100







## Oxford starts enquiry into 'high level' of suicides

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD University has launched an enquiry into the level of suicide among its students as investigations continue into the death of an 18-year-old undergraduate found hanging in her room on Thursday.

Tracey Cole, awarded a medal on Monday for achieving the best marks in the country in this year's sociology A level, was discovered by a fellow student hanging by a dressing gown cord from the ceiling of her room in Lady Margaret Hall only a week after she arrived in Oxford to read English.

Police said that no suicide note had been found but that she appeared to have been "overwhelmed by the volume of work she was going to face". Miss Cole's parents travelled to Oxford from their home in Exeter yesterday to collect their daughter's belongings. Dr Duncan Stewart, principal, has informed college members of the death by letter and said that they were "terribly distressed" by it.

"In the case of a student who has been with us for only a week there is little I can offer in the way of profound assessment. She had every reason to expect to do well here because she had an outstanding pre-university record academically," he said.

Dr Stewart added that Miss Cole, due to be matriculated into the university this morning, had shown no signs of stress at meetings with tutors and had already started to make friends.

As the Lady Margaret Hall flag flew at half-mast, students at Miss Cole's college speculated about her motives.

Ariane Von Orlow, 26, said adjusting to a new environment could be difficult. "I've had some problems myself trying to get on with work but I can't understand how this

girl could hang herself. Something must have happened to her to make her pick this particular moment."

Vicki Howe, president of the university student union said: "In such a small college it will be a terrible blow for everyone."

Dons are sensitive about the incidence of student suicide at Oxford, which is believed to be higher than average. Although there has not been a widely publicised case since Darran Walters, a chemistry student at St John's, killed himself with cyanide in 1989, one undergraduate building is still known as "suicide block", while another college has a "suicide staircase" named because of student deaths.

Students with emotional problems have access to a team of five university counsellors, as well as a free telephone nightline run by their peers. Elsa Bell, head of the university counselling service, said yesterday that a study of suicide in Oxford was being carried out by the committee on student health.

"Oxford is a very intense experience for anyone who comes here. Most seem to cope but for others, some of whom have had problems earlier in their lives, it is one pressure too many."

A significant proportion of the 596 students who sought counselling last year were suffering from depression, she said.

Raj Mody, who works for *Cherwell*, the university newspaper, said that there were relatively few suicides at Oxford but that colleges always tried to minimise publicity of student deaths.

"There is a very pressurised environment here but it seems to work most of the time. When it doesn't, it frightens everyone."



Margaret Orr Deas: "There is too much prayer and not enough action"

## 'Uppity' women lose patience with ordination campaign

■ As next month's vote on women priests draws near, activists have decided to launch the church *Militant*

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of self-proclaimed "uppity" women in the Church of England have launched a *Militant*-style campaign in support of women priests, calling for "less prayer and more action".

The radical movement has caused divisions in the Movement for the Ordination of Women (Mow), which for 13 years has led the campaign to ordain women.

Like the far-left movement that infiltrated the Labour party, the activists are centred on a publication. While not going so far as tying themselves to the railings at Church House, they have anonymously launched a newsletter *Uppity*, calling for women to campaign harder for admission to the priesthood. It condemns the "timid attitude of many who are in favour of women's ordination, but who claim that a quietist, pardon-me-for-breathing attitude is the only way to win votes and influence people".

Caroline Davis, executive secretary of Mow, said of *Uppity*'s supporters: "Maybe they are doing the right thing. Who knows? But we in Mow are certainly doing a great deal more than they give us credit for." Some supporters of *Uppity* are also members of Mow. Jenny Standaer, of Mow, said: "It made us go bananas, especially sending it out anonymously. They are just being counterproductive. We are really cross with them, but we do not like being cross with our own members."

The radicals direct their fiercest criticism at a service tonight at Coventry Cathedral, organised by Mow. *Uppity* says: "In our view this is not only an extraordinarily inept use of symbolism — Mow literally sending itself to Coventry — but to use prayer in this way, instead of action, is a cop-out."

The newsletter calls on women to don a white flower and join a protest outside Church House for the decisive debate on November 11. It

says: "Go sick, resign your job, cancel your holiday, neglect the kids, sell the antiques to pay your fare if you live abroad, but be there."

*Uppity* adds: "If acquiescence, good behaviour, niceness and prayer could have got women into the priesthood, they would have been there a millennium ago."

*Uppity* is published from a house in east London. A spokesman for it, a London priest, said: "We made a strategic choice to be anonymous because we wanted to highlight issues rather than personalities."

Margaret Orr Deas, who resigned as executive secretary of Mow 18 months ago because she felt there was "too much prayer and not enough action", and who is chairman of its London district, said last night: "I am an *Uppity* woman, but only in the sense that I receive it. I see the issue of women priests as an issue that concerns women everywhere. It goes way beyond the church."

## Spassky plays his finest game yet

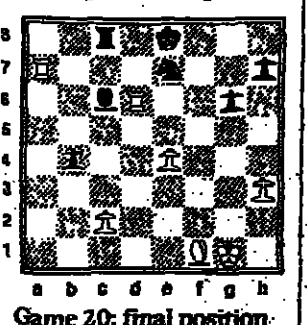
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER Bobby Fischer's lacklustre performance in game 19 of the Belgrade match, Boris Spassky has struck back, scoring an outstanding win in game 20. After 43 moves, and with his position in ruins, Fischer resigned. The score is now seven wins to Fischer, four to Spassky, with nine games drawn. The victor is the first player to score 10 wins.

Spassky, playing white, tried a first move in game 20 that he has hitherto not used in this contest. For many moves the respective armies eyed each other from a great distance. Then on the twenty-second Spassky inaugurated a manoeuvre that led to the winning of a pawn by forced stages.

Fischer reacted powerfully in the centre but on the twenty-eighth move the American grandmaster made a clumsy choice that brought a rook into danger. Five moves later Spassky pounced, attacking both of Fischer's rooks with his knight. Fischer could not throw off the pressure and was eventually tied in knots in the final position he was way behind on material and more was bound to go. This was Spassky's best game of the match.

White	Black	White	Black
1 Nf3	24 Nf5	40 Nf5	63 Nf5
2 Nf3	25 d4	41 Nf5	64 Nf5
3 Nf3	26 Nf5	42 Nf5	65 Nf5
4 Nf3	27 Nf5	43 Nf5	66 Nf5
5 Nf3	28 Nf5	44 Nf5	67 Nf5
6 Nf3	29 Nf5	45 Nf5	68 Nf5
7 Nf3	30 Nf5	46 Nf5	69 Nf5
8 Nf3	31 Nf5	47 Nf5	70 Nf5
9 Nf3	32 Nf5	48 Nf5	71 Nf5
10 Nf3	33 Nf5	49 Nf5	72 Nf5
11 Nf3	34 Nf5	50 Nf5	73 Nf5
12 Nf3	35 Nf5	51 Nf5	74 Nf5
13 Nf3	36 Nf5	52 Nf5	75 Nf5
14 Nf3	37 Nf5	53 Nf5	76 Nf5
15 Nf3	38 Nf5	54 Nf5	77 Nf5
16 Nf3	39 Nf5	55 Nf5	78 Nf5
17 Nf3	40 Nf5	56 Nf5	79 Nf5
18 Nf3	41 Nf5	57 Nf5	80 Nf5
19 Nf3	42 Nf5	58 Nf5	81 Nf5
20 Nf3	43 Nf5	59 Nf5	82 Nf5
21 Nf3	44 Nf5	60 Nf5	83 Nf5
22 Nf3	45 Nf5	61 Nf5	84 Nf5



Game 20: final position

## BBC board gives in to Radio 4 listeners

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Campaign to Save Radio 4 on Long Wave claimed victory in its battle with the BBC yesterday after the corporation's governors promised not to move the network to the FM frequency until transmission quality "meets listeners' needs throughout the UK".

Governors have left open the possibility that the controversial new 24-hour news network might be broadcast on FM instead of Radio 4's long wave signal when it launches on April 5, 1994.

Nick MacKinnon, the Winchester maths professor who organised the protest, said yesterday: "We have won but we still need to be sure that we've won. We're still going to march on Broadcasting House on October 24 to make sure the governors stay true to their word and put the listeners' needs first."

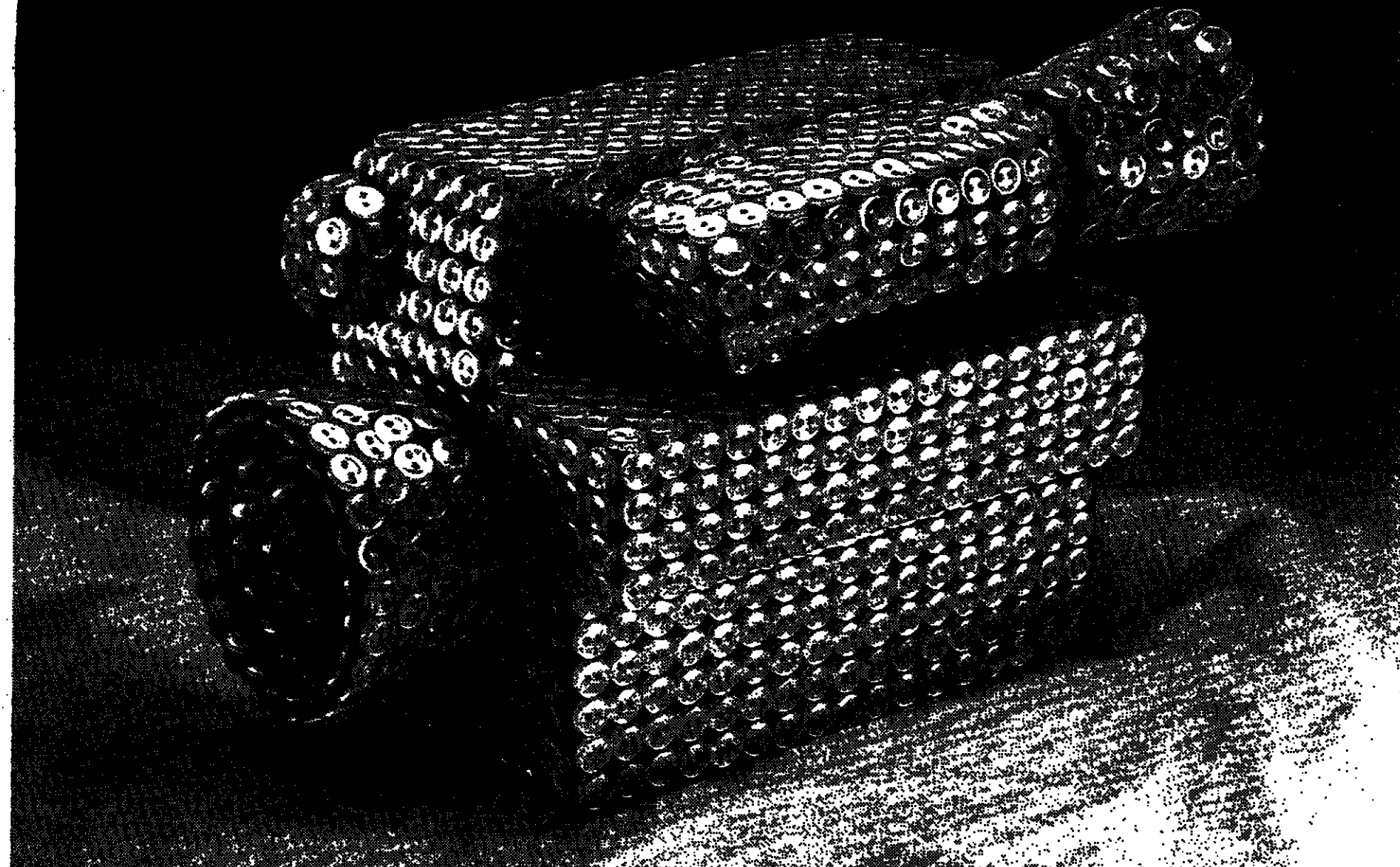
The BBC still plans to put the news network on long wave eventually, because the FM signal is better for Radio 4's music and plays. But it will not make the switch until all parts of the country can receive the FM signal.

By early 1994 it is estimated that 98.3 per cent of Britain, compared with 96 per cent now, will be able to receive Radio 4 on FM. Governors have pledged to identify areas where listeners have trouble picking up the FM signal over the next 18 months and will offer them "special help and advice".

Governors have promised to examine opportunities for supplementary coverage on medium wave. They will also negotiate a deal allowing them to transmit Radio 4 via the Astra satellite throughout the UK and the European continent.

"Since the purpose of the news service is to increase choice, not to reduce it, we have an equally strong commitment to offer Radio 4 in the best quality to all who value it," a statement from the governors said. "The governors are clear that Radio 4 will remain on long wave until they are satisfied that transmission arrangements meet listeners' needs throughout the UK."

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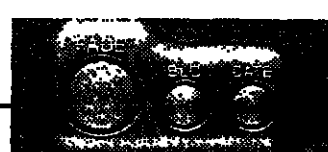
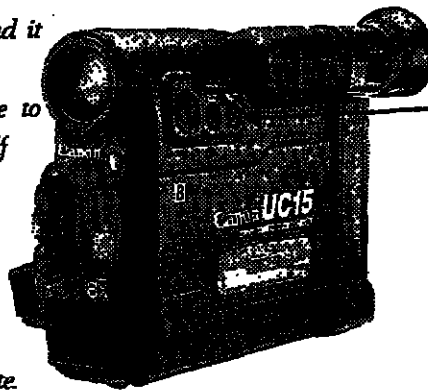
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tion. "It's 30 hours solid and very hard driving. John Foster, the team lead, that we have brought them something to eat, it's quite moving," Mr Foster said.



Commons move for all-party review

## Labour smooths way for Tory rebellion

BY SHEILA GUNN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR yesterday increased its chances of imposing a defeat on the government by disclosing that the party leadership will ask MPs to refer the decision to close 31 pits to the Commons industry committee for review.

Although the final version of Labour's motion to the Commons next Wednesday has not been decided, the party leadership agreed that the wording will be moderate enough to tempt into open rebellion the growing chorus of Conservative MPs who are critical of the government's decision.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee and, in effect, the voice of the Tory back benches, yesterday condemned the 30,000 job losses and the closure of more than half of Britain's mines as unacceptable. He said that a review was imperative but there was no question of his voting against the government.

Sir Marcus, MP for Shipley, admitted that some Tory MPs were incensed about the impact of the closures and said

the 1922 Committee will be questioning Michael Heseltine, the trade board president, before Wednesday's debate.

In addition, Mr Heseltine will make a Common statement on Monday on the closures and will appear before the industry committee on Wednesday morning.

The government's business managers can afford to be relaxed about protests from a small nucleus of well-known rebels, but are understood to be alarmed at the scale of criticism from normally loyal Tory MPs who could wipe out the government's 21 majority in the Commons.

Those who have spoken publicly against the announcement include Michael Clark, Winston Churchill, Elizabeth Peacock, Sir John Hannam, Sir Tony Durant, James Pawsey, David Nicholson, William Cash, Sir Teddy Taylor, Ann and Nicholas Winterton, John Carlisle, Robert Adley and John Butcher.

A vote for Labour's motion for an enquiry by the industry committee would effectively

wreck the government's pit closure programme and ensure the issue remained in the spotlight for months as witnesses, including ministers, faced televised questioning.

Both Tory and Labour sources were at pains to emphasise yesterday that a government defeat, while humiliating, would not bring the government down or provoke a general election.

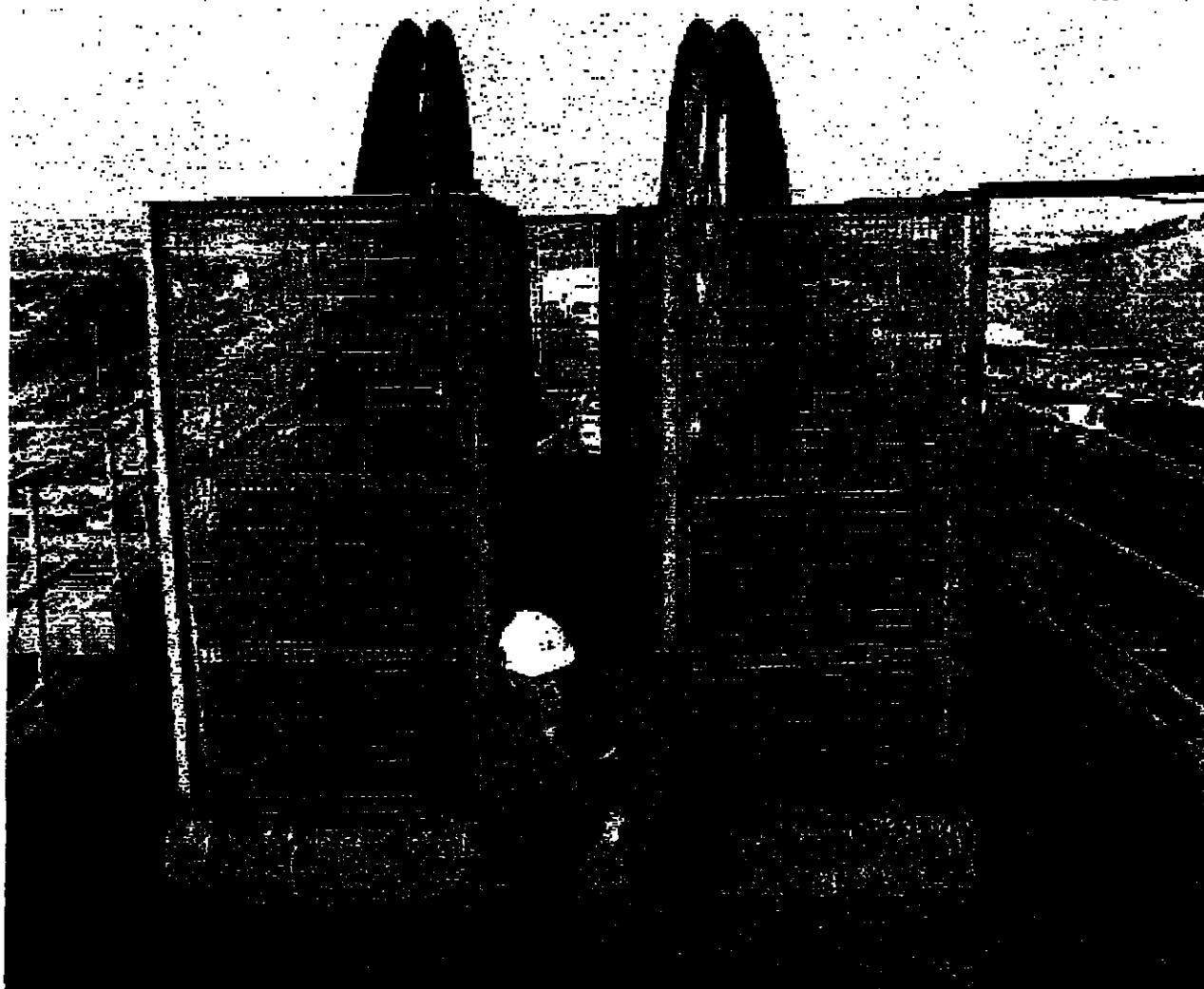
The 11-strong industry committee has a Conservative majority of one. But the Tory whips, in a move they must now regret, handed Labour the chairmanship in recognition of the government's reduced majority.

Robin Cook, the shadow industry secretary, said yesterday: "We will be doing everything possible for those Tory MPs who believe that the government has got it wrong to record that view on Wednesday."

Labour peers, who are scrutinising the government's legislation to prepare British Coal for privatisation, tabled amendments to try to block the pit closures.

## Coal men peer into black hole of their future

MARC ASPLAND



The pits' gloom at Silverhill colliery after mining was stopped there yesterday. "Stunned, appalled, disgusted. You name it, that's what I felt when I heard about the closure," said miner Lee Collins.

■ A week's reprieve has done little for the peace of mind of Silverhill miners

BY RONALD FAUX

LEE Collins arrived for work at Silverhill colliery near Mansfield yesterday unsure whether it would be his last day as a miner.

The shock of the sudden closure announcement had not worn off. "Stunned, appalled, disgusted. You name it that's what I felt when I heard," the powerfully built, quietly spoken miner said. Yesterday there was no time to put on his pit gear as preparation for the 1,200th descent into Silverhill. "There was so much uncertainty about, we were told to go home. There was no working and Roy Lynk had begun a sit-in. I hung around for a while then went back home to let Karen, my wife, know what was happening."

Both Lee, 27, and Karen, 26, come from mining families. They are used to bad news of pits closing and mining communities being placed under threat. But never had there been bad news on such a scale. As he drove to work the implications flooded in. There would be the mortgage he could no longer afford. A house he would not be able to sell on a glutted property market and his skill as a mine ventilation specialist of little use for work above ground.

"It is extremely depressing because I love this job. There is nothing else I would rather do," he said. Now it seemed that the next semi-detached home in Forest Town, the satellite television, two-litre car and next year's holiday in Spain were all suddenly vulnerable.

Later yesterday morning he returned to the pit to pick up the latest news and heard the court action had won a week's reprieve. Perhaps after all the last load of high-quality power station coal had not been dug from Silverhill. Perhaps the £6 million worth of equipment that was standing ready to develop a new face would not now be left to be uselessly crushed as the mine caved in. "Silverhill made £1 million profit last year. The lads here believe the UK, an island of coal in a sea of oil and gas could well be a net importer of energy in a few years time if this goes on. I don't understand it on any level — economic or human."

The men gathered to hear a British Coal Enterprise councillor tell them that there was life after a mine closure. But his words fell on sceptical ears.

## Minister pelted with eggs

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TIM Eggar, the first government minister to visit a coal mining area since the pit closures were announced, was given a rough ride yesterday.

The energy minister was pelted with eggs and his car door was kicked in by a hostile crowd of almost 300 demonstrators during a tour of Tyneside.

He had come to announce a £3-million assistance package for the North East coal fields over the next three years, but was ambushed by a crowd dominated by supporters of left-wing militant groups at the Team Valley estate. As the minister ran from his Rover into an office for talks with local mining union leaders, several eggs smashed into the doorframe beside him.

Mr Eggar said: "I understand the shock and concern of people in the area over the closures but it is unfortunate that they had to demonstrate their anger in such a way."

## Latter-day Diogenes rails from his pit

BY RONALD FAUX

ROY Lynk, director-general of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, sat at the bottom of a 1,200ft mine shaft yesterday criticising the "economic madness" of pit closures while two sympathetic Tory MPs attempted to join him over a sandwich.

Mr Lynk went down Silverhill Colliery near Macclesfield on Thursday afternoon. Alan Batterham, UDM official at the pit, said: "He asked if he could visit and have a last trip down because 30 years ago he worked here." Once underground, Mr Lynk announced he would not be going back up.

He intended to protest against what the government was doing to the mining industry. "The world and his wife and two

Tory MPs have all wanted to go down to see him but the management have put a ban on it," Mr Batterham said.

From the depths of Silverhill Mr Lynk held forth in the manner of a latter-day Diogenes complaining to anyone who could reach him by telephone about the immoral attitude of the Coal Board and the government. He had no immediate plans to return to the surface. Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Manchester Davyhulme, was even fiercer in his criticism of the government. Both he and Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Batley and Spen, said they would vote against the government. But neither was allowed to visit Mr Lynk.

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## Miners win right to seek judicial review on closures

By NICHOLAS WATT

MINERS fighting pit closures received two boosts in the High Court yesterday. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers won the right to seek a judicial review of British Coal's decision to close eight pits, while another judge gave the National Union of Mineworkers more time to prepare its case questioning the legality of the decision to close six pits.

Mr Justice Roch ruled that the UDM had an "arguable case" on the basis that British Coal's action was allegedly "unreasonable, irrational and disproportionate" and there had been a failure to follow proper consultation procedures. He said the full hearing should take place next week, possibly Thursday, after the courts have dealt with the separate legal action by the NUM and Nacods, the pit deputies' union.

Neil Greatrex, president of the UDM's Nottinghamshire section, said a judicial review would delay the pit closures by up to nine months. "If we are successful, it will force British Coal and the government into leaving all collieries open until proper review procedures have been exhausted."

Christopher Vajda, counsel for the UDM and the individual miners bringing the case, said that by failing to consult the miners or their trade union British Coal had broken both British and European Community law. He said that under the European Coal and

Steel Community Treaty and energy policy workers had a right to make suggestions to the Community. This would be worthless if the closures went ahead. At the full hearing the UDM will ask for a declaration that under the colliery review procedure British Coal is under an obligation "to make all reasonable and proper endeavours" to follow that procedure.

Charles Falconer QC, for British Coal, said the UDM had a hopeless case. Judicial review procedures were not appropriate because the closure of pits did not come within the scope of public law, a prerequisite for judicial review. The eight pits in the UDM case are Cotgrave, Silverhill, Bevercotes, Bilthorpe, Calverton, Clipstone and Rufford, in Nottinghamshire, and Bolsover in Derbyshire.

The NUM's case was delayed until Tuesday when Mr Justice Vinelott agreed to hear more legal arguments after British Coal announced that no redundancy notices would be sent out until next Friday. The judge, who was due to rule yesterday on whether to grant an injunction delaying six pit closures, said he was anxious that the case was not hurried. "It is a matter of crucial importance not only to the large numbers of miners but [it is] also a matter of general principle," he said. After the adjournment John Hendy QC, for the NUM and Nacods, said the decision was

an enormous and significant concession. However, Charles Falconer QC, for British Coal, denied that there had been a concession. "This was always intended to be the position," Arthur Scargill, NUM president, accused British Coal of "breaking the law and acting in violation of the European Community directives and British employment law".

The emergency injunction named six collieries due for early closure. The NUM and Nacods argued British Coal broke European and English law by shutting the collieries without proper consultation. Two of the six pits will continue working until next Friday.

They are Taff Merthyr, in Mid-Glamorgan, and Vane Tempest, near Sunderland. Although the other four have closed no redundancy notices will be sent out until next Friday. They are Cotgrave, Trentham, Silverhill and Markham Main.



Legal boost: Alan Maltman, a miner from Westoe colliery, outside the High Court in London yesterday. He was joined by other mining colleagues protesting the closure of coal pits throughout the country

## Investors eye up viable pits

By PATRICIA TEHAN

POTENTIAL investors are eyeing the 31 doomed pits, investigating ways to make them economically viable. The government believes that only a handful will find buyers.

Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's former commercial director, is heading a consortium to try to lease four pits in South Yorkshire. Australian mining group Brian Nichols Associates would run them.

The consortium is looking at Markham Main at Armthorpe, Hatfield Colliery near Doncaster, the nearby Bentley "super pit", which employs 650 miners, and Rossington, which produced one million tonnes of coal last year.

The Department of Trade and Industry plans to discourage miners from investing all their redundancy money in buyouts. It fears a political catastrophe if groups lose their savings in a failed mine.

Eric Garbett of Sheffield University, contrary to yesterday's report, said that although coal produces carbon dioxide, gas power stations lead to emissions of water vapour and leaks of methane, both greenhouse gases.

## Church urged to sell its electricity shares

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Sheffield called on the Church Commissioners yesterday to sell their £3 million holding in PowerGen, one of the two electricity generating companies, in protest at the pit closures.

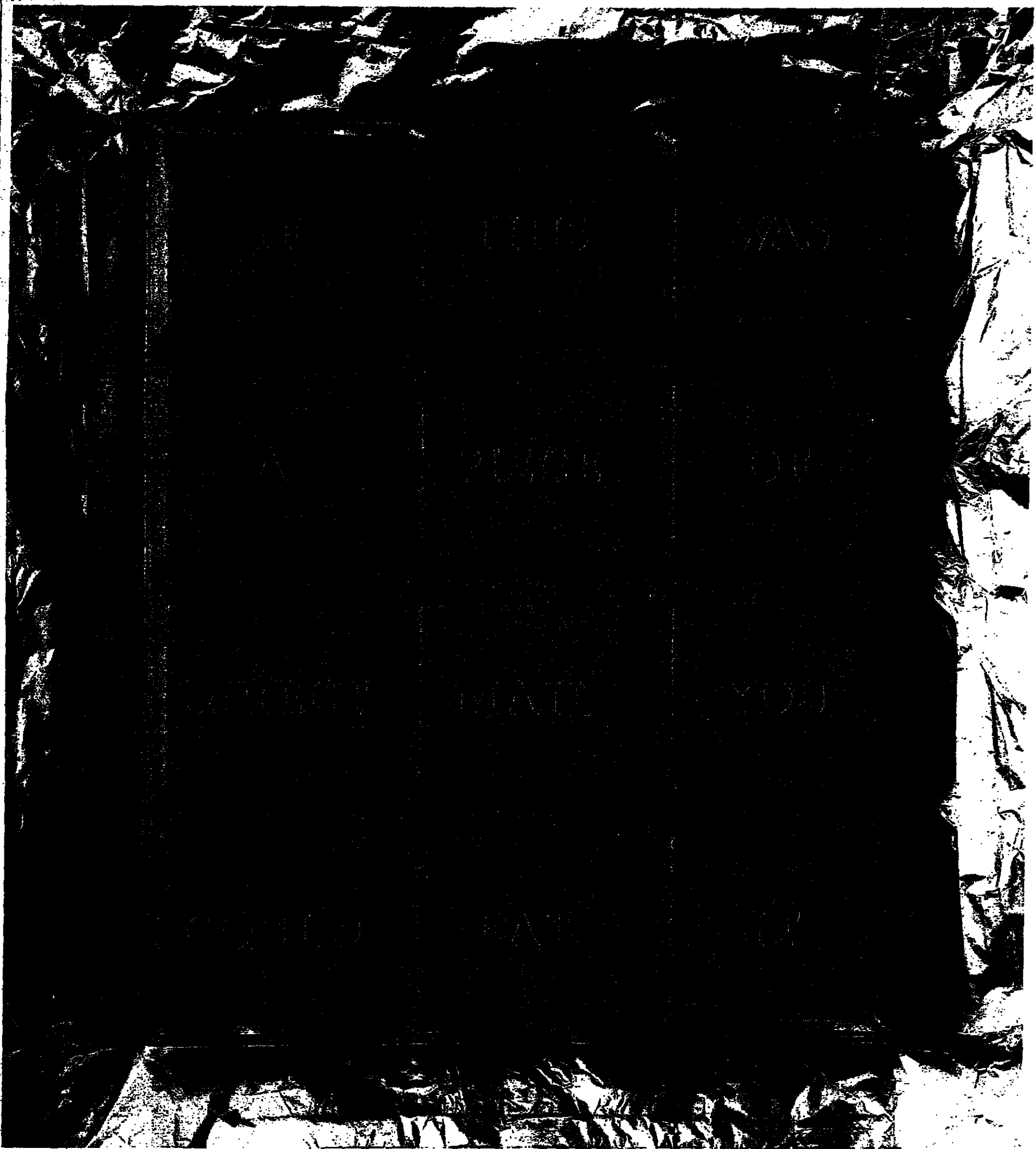
The Trades Union Congress is also looking at union investments in National Power and PowerGen to gauge the impact of a mass disinvestment campaign among its members. Labour appealed to the 1.5 million small shareholders yesterday to protest to the two privatised companies about their reluctance to buy British coal.

Until recently, the commissioners held shares in PowerGen and National Power worth more than £5 million. A £2.6 million stake in National Power was sold in August. The church still re-

tains 1.2 million shares in PowerGen, worth about £3 million. The commissioners emphasised that the sale had been agreed for some time.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr David Lunn, said that replacing British coal with imported coal and gas was not going to help the shareholders or customers. He said it should be possible for shareholders to call meetings to put their views. "This would seem to me to be a very proper use of shareholders' rights and a valuable witness to the commissioners' concern for both morality and profit in business," he said.

PowerGen refused to discuss the value of the commissioners' investment, saying it was a matter of commercial confidentiality. National Power was not available for comment.



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# Major's detractors suddenly discover redeeming streak of reality



Lodge spoke of city without a personality

By GEORGE BROCK

"If I were the wife of a British minister today, I would be out on the streets," Irmay Richardson began her syndicated commentary on German radio yesterday.

As a couple of thousand members of Europe's fourth estate arrived in Birmingham on Thursday evening, continental commentators abruptly changed their tone. Frau Richardson is based in Brussels, married to a British Eurocrat, and well versed in the subtleties of subsidiarity and the Gatt trade talks. But by yesterday morning she was scornful of the summit's detachment from reality.

"The Community's leaders pledged that they would try to

## AS OTHERS SEE US

do things closer to the people," she told her listeners. "Why do they hide themselves away in a brand-new conference centre in a city which has suffered in the recession? They ignore what is really bothering hundreds of thousands of people: fear for the future, fear for jobs, fear for their daily bread."

Newspapers in other capitals reflected hopes in the 12 governments that anodyne and harmonious declaration by the summiters would conceal the intellectual and political chaos threatening to derail the ratifications of the Maastricht treaty. Writers

falling over themselves to bash British ministers for their backwardness and lack of Euro-enthusiasm ten days ago suddenly found this week that John Major had some redeeming features. Apart from anything else, he has brokered a deal with the reluctant Danes. "Major: the ideal man to play go-between," said *Le Soir* of Brussels yesterday.

The German government has been busy trying to help repair Anglo-German relations. Both the foreign and defence ministers have given interviews to main German papers in the past week in which they went out of their

way to emphasise Britain's central role in the EC, while tactfully avoiding any mention of the fact that sterling is no longer central to the Community's exchange-rate mechanism. Even if Mr Major manages to get the Maastricht bill through the Commons, wrote Gunter Nonne-macher of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the key to the future lies afterwards. Ratifying Maastricht does not mean much if Britain does not intend to come back into the ERM.

The Paris daily *Libération* reported that French officials are nowadays comparing European unification to a river: even if there are bends and rapids, the water always flows onwards. Pierre Haski,

the paper's European editor, concluded that the summiters would nevertheless "have great difficulty in dissipating the unsavoury impression that they are the walking wounded leaning on each other in order to save a treaty in serious trouble."

One little difficulty involved President Mitterrand. In Paris, Danielle Mitterrand, the president's wife, last night reacted with anger to the false rumour that her husband had been taken ill at the EC summit in Birmingham. "It seems some local reporters are making things up and I have nothing but scorn for this kind of journalism," Mme Mitterrand told Europe 1 radio in Paris.

Reporting the rumour, the

French television and radio blamed BBC Radio Birmingham and the Press Association for propagating what they said appeared to be negative propaganda about the French president.

Birmingham did not impress the reporters who went to check out the summit backdrop beforehand. "It is a black hole without any personality," the local novelist David Lodge told a Belgian paper. Almost the only light relief of the week was provided by an EC newsmaster, *European Report*, which disclosed that the German economic minister had threatened to hold up ratification of Maastricht if the Community did not loosen its import rules for bananas. The

Treaty of Rome, he darkly reminded a recent meeting of EC ministers, had been held up by the drafting of a special German footnote about bananas.

There was some good news last night: the Danes might reluctantly approve the Maastricht treaty in a new referendum next year despite overwhelming aversion to the concept of European union, according to a survey concluded yesterday. The Copenhagen University enquiry, based on opinion polls exploring the reasons why Danes voted 51 to 49 per cent against Maastricht in June, said the vision of a "United States of Europe" did not attract even those who voted "yes".

## EC heads agree to mend ways and heed voter anxiety

■ The declaration from the summit committed leaders to more openness but could not conceal divisions over how far this should go

By GEORGE BROCK AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN BIRMINGHAM

EUROPE'S leaders yesterday took their first tentative steps towards making the European Community more open and accountable but they failed to disguise the sharp divisions over how deep the changes should be.

A draft "Birmingham Declaration" being finalised by the leaders last night set out the Community's commitment to taking decisions closer to Europe's 340 million citizens, to making decision-making more transparent and to achieving more democratic accountability. The declaration, which made few actual commitments, is part of the programme to make the EC and the Maastricht treaty more user-friendly to Danish voters who rejected it in their June referendum. "Unless we have the people with us, our enterprise will not succeed," John Major told his fellow leaders at the start of yesterday's meeting.

"As a community of democracies we can only move forward with the support of our citizens," the draft text said. It added that the governments were determined to demonstrate the benefits of Maastricht: ensure a better public debate on EC issues; respect the history and culture of individual nations and define more clearly Community and national responsibilities. It also said that they aimed to emphasise that citizenship of the European

union would not alter or replace national citizenship. The toughest paragraph of the draft offered an interpretation of "subsidiarity", which encourages decisions to be taken at the lowest possible level. The proposed text says that "centralisation is not the right road to greater unity" and it reminds EC institutions that they can act only where the national governments have given them power to do so in the EC treaties. "Action at the Community level should happen only when indispensable." This is the strongest wording that the British government has tried to incorporate in any EC definition of subsidiarity.



Delors: subsidiarity is no EC "miracle cure"

"that the course we are charting is right". People needed to be convinced "that the process of European construction is in the interests of all of us, despite the sacrifices that are sometimes required". He said that there would be occasions when politicians needed to listen to voters' worries. "We must show where we can that those concerns are unfounded, but there will be occasions where we cannot show that. In those cases we must be prepared to change our ways."

Mr Major proposed that one foreign affairs council meeting in each six-month EC presidency should be televised. He also suggested that the European Commission could encourage openness by producing "green papers" on forthcoming EC law and by consulting the public in individual member states before tabling proposals.

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, warned leaders not to expect subsidiarity to be a miracle cure for the Community's present malaise. Subsidiarity "is a little less simple than it seems," he said. "We are not in a federal system and subsidiarity can only be applied in a federal system." He urged that any changes should not alter the balance between governments and the Commission.

Summit summary, page 1  
Diary, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



Table talk: President Mitterrand and Roland Dumas, his foreign minister, at the summit yesterday. French officials denied a rumour that M Mitterrand had been taken ill in Birmingham, and said he had "a good appetite" at lunch

## Leaders line up for unhappy snapshot

By GEORGE BROCK

THE European Community's internal machinery is a ponderously slow diplomatic engine which can often carry its leaders to the wrong destination at the wrong moment.

EC leaders flew here to stand in line for a snapshot of a Community reuniting after the traumas of September's currency crisis, and for a gentle debate on the S-word, "subsidiarity". No sooner had they touched ground than they

were swept away by a tide of events and public anger, with nothing to cling to but an agenda of abstractions.

Ministers and spokesmen stranded in front of the British presidency's cold blue stage sets were bombarded with questions about why the summit was concentrating on an arcane order of priorities while ignoring the collapse of Europe's economies. The first

ful governments are stuck in the EC's central dilemma of the 1990s. As the EC economies integrate, politicians are still held responsible for disasters in their own backyards.

The governments agreed on the merger of Europe's currencies in the Maastricht treaty, but that document says little about how far national economies would need to co-ordinate. Now even Maastricht's

compromise is being pulled apart by German doubts, Danish second thoughts and the terrors stirred by the prospects of recession turning into slump.

The answer to Europe's economic malaise is a united currency strong enough to stand up to the destabilising American dollar, France's Elisabeth Guigou said. She sounded as if the logic of her argument was that monetary union should be accelerated and not put on hold. That is exactly the conclusion that some of Jacques Delors' economists at the European Commission are drawing.

There are plenty of European politicians who dream of the EC's statesmen making a series of co-ordinated grand gestures to relaunch economic growth; but the men floating these ideas are mostly out of government.

A British official tried hard to connect the summit's compromise agenda with the crumbling world of miners' pits. "We've got to show a Europe that's moving forward in a way that's acceptable to its peoples," he said. "That is what this so-called arid debate on subsidiarity is all about. It is about jobs at the end of the day."

## Pressing ecu into service

AMID the diplomacy and horse-trading, yesterday's European Community summit in Birmingham had its lighter side.

□ The *Birmingham Post* tried to make some visitors feel at home by printing a special edition with its front page in French, billing itself "La voix des Midlands". Even the cover price of 30 pence was translated as 0.38 ecus.

□ Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, arrived for the meeting carrying two apples after reports that the European Commission had classified the variety as too small to eat. "An apple a day keeps the Commission at bay," he told reporters.

□ The people of Birmingham are not in favour of the Maastricht treaty, according to a poll on the BBC *Midlands Today* programme which found 1,452 viewers for and 5,191 against.

## Trade chief fears more recession

FROM REUTERS IN HONG KONG

THE world recession will worsen unless there is an early accord in stalled talks aimed at liberalising world trade, Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has said.

He declared: "The situation of the world economy is such that if the signal for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of the world trade body is not given very soon then we will add to the difficulties." He

is in Hong Kong for the Europe-East Asia Economic Forum, aimed at boosting trade and investment links.

The main obstacle to an accord in the Uruguay round, which could pump an extra \$200 billion (£118 billion) annually into the world economy, is disagreement between the EC and America over cutting European farm subsidies. Mr Dunkel said time was running out before a February deadline for the US adminis-

tration to present results of the negotiations to Congress. He told a news conference: "I don't think governments will take the risk of failure."

German and Japanese trade officials, who were scheduled to hold talks with Mr Dunkel during the three-day meeting, said France was holding up an early agreement but expressed hopes for a breakthrough. Lorenz Schomus, of Germany's ministry of economics, said France's fiscal to budge over farm subsidies was still the biggest obstacle.

## Bonn wants MPs to vet Brussels law

By ANATOL LIEVEN

IN A fresh attempt to give some content to "subsidiarity" during the Birmingham summit, the German government has proposed giving parliament the right of involvement in law and decision-making by Brussels. This right has been held so far only by Germany's federal states.

The change comes in the form of an proposed amendment to the German constitution, laying down consultation with the Bundestag as well as the upper house, the Bundesrat, which represents the states. Rupert Scholz, the co-chairman of the Bundestag constitutional committee, said yesterday that the House must be "genuinely and effectively involved" in order to counteract the "centralising structures" of the EC.

The amendment will need to be passed by a parliamentary majority of two-thirds in order to be adopted, but is unlikely to meet strong opposition. A paper issued by the Bundestag yesterday described the proposed amendment as "an essential condition" for the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, and the absolute right of the German states to consultation on matters affecting them. German representa-

tives have often argued that "subsidiarity" is not a vague principle, but is rooted in the German federal constitution and political experience.

What the new amendment will mean in practice however remains vague, as does the new principle that the Bundestag will have the right to a vote before a common currency is introduced. In the convoluted words of Herr Scholz, the amendment will mean not "a right of control" but "a more intensive parliamentary control". From the point of view of impressing a British audience, this formula has the added advantage that the German word *Kontrolle* can mean either "control" or merely "check, inspection" — according to taste.

At an Anglo-German conference in Coburg organised by London's German Historical Society, German participants apparently sought to reassure British participants that "federalism" also means something quite different in Germany. They pointed out that Britain had no experience of a federal system and so was prey to irrational fears. Whether the British found this reassuring is not recorded.

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## Community ready with new lifeline for Bosnia

YUGOSLAVIA

European leaders said that, with winter tragedy looming in Bosnia, food and medicine will only arrive if "savage breaches of humanitarian law" are stopped

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR,  
MICHAEL EVANS AND ADAM LEBOR

IMMEDIATE and decisive action is needed in the face of "an impending major human tragedy" in former Yugoslavia, the 12 European Community leaders declared at the Birmingham summit last night. They promised to speed up EC assistance and provide money and staff urgently to help the refugees.

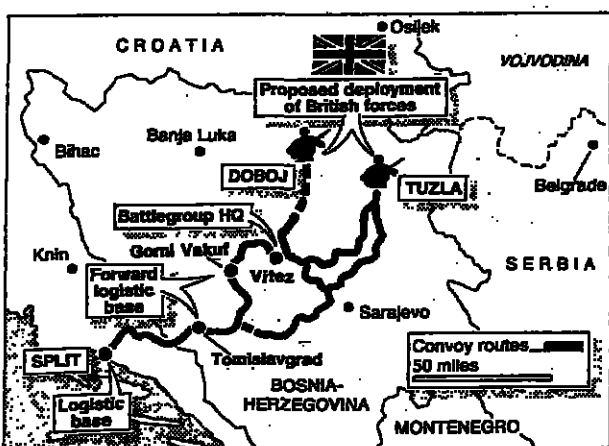
The EC will send 120,000 tonnes of food, medicine and shelter as well as 40 lorries. It will establish a task force to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which will be organised like the force set up last year to deliver food to Moscow and St Petersburg. The leaders also called for a meeting next week of technical experts on providing assistance, and a further meeting next month to assess the effectiveness of the operation.

Their decision came after a warning by the European Commission that there was still a shortfall of \$600 million (£333 million) in the \$1 billion needed now to cope with the Bosnian disaster. So far \$468 million has been pledged, including \$300 million by the EC and \$64 million by individual member states. The key question not yet decided is whether some of the money should be used to help refugees in Serbia and Montenegro, as well as those in Bosnia and Croatia.

In a strong statement the Twelve condemned the continuing violence and cruelty and "savage breaches of international humanitarian law".



Cumming may set up headquarters in Vitez



## British truckers defy the gunmen

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN SPLIT

THE rain, the mud and the wind cannot stop them; shell fire and Serbian checkpoints they pass through in a calm and orderly fashion. While British troops began to arrive in Split this week, British lorry drivers delivering aid to Sarajevo must continue to defy the gunmen.

Based in the Croatian port of Split, the 21 volunteer drivers set off every three or four days on the 500-mile round trip to the Bosnian capital. The 48-hour journey takes them right through war-ravaged Bosnia and finally into the battered remains of Sarajevo.

The drivers travel in a convoy of 15 vehicles, linked by fixed frequency radio. They wear flak jackets but a wrong turn could lead them into a free-fire zone, where the UN insignia would offer little protection. "It's 20 hours solid and very hard driving," John Foster, the team leader, said.

"Tyres blow out, engines fail and suspension springs break. The routes are relatively safe, if a bit too close to Serbian artillery positions for comfort."

Mr Foster, 52, usually works as an emergency planning officer on the Isle of Man and he has driven to and from Sarajevo 11 times since last month. "I was bored stiff sitting at a desk and I decided to give it a go," he said. "I worked as a policeman in Rhodesia, on anti-terrorist operations, so perhaps I have a slightly different attitude to life."

Beneath the traditional British stiff upper lip, the drivers admit they are affected by the destruction and most of all by the welcome they get. "I'm not an emotional individual, but when you see the faces of the children on the street, absolutely ecstatic that we have brought them something to eat, it's quite moving," Mr Foster said.



On the march: miners and their supporters staging a demonstration against the shutdowns announced by British Coal outside the Birmingham summit centre yesterday. Aid offer, page 1; Pit closures, pages 6 and 7

## League plea for north to join now

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN MANTUA

ITALY

AS Giuliano Amato jockeyed for position with European counterparts at Birmingham yesterday, the devolutionist Lombardy League appealed to Europe to allow rich northern Italy to enter the fast lane of the Community immediately even if it means leaving behind the backward Mezzogiorno of the south.

"The north has the economic strength and the honesty to enter Europe," said Ugo Bossi, the secretary of the Lombardy League in Mantua, the town immortalised by Virgil where the devolutionist movement scored a stunning weather-vane victory in provincial elections last month.

"Perhaps if we in the north go into Europe on our own as full members, we can take the rest (of Italy) in later. Otherwise we risk the whole of Italy being excluded. Italy already is being relegated into the slow lane of the two-speed EC. But the north does not want to stay out. We hope the rest of Europe knows this."

Signor Anghinoni, a former multinational company manager in the foodstuffs sector who was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in April, said

that the league's two Euro MPs at Strasbourg are lobbying the European Commission already to give the north a separate status within the EC, to set it apart from the rest of Italy. He denied it would break up Italy.

"Certainly the north could go into Europe as a full member immediately if it had the chance. Nobody wants to change the frontiers of Italy." The boundary between Tuscany and Umbria marking the league's putative "Republic of the North", would simply be "the frontier of a European macro-region," the league leader said. Signor Anghinoni added that "I hope Germany does not see us as a competitor. The north would be a workhorse for Europe."

The league and its sister, Lega del Veneto, also have stepped up a symbolic campaign against the government of Signor Amato, the prime minister, by issuing mock passports in Verona, mock coins in Brescia, monopoly-style league banknotes in Verona and, in Emilia-Romagna, league stamps.

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#### PROGRAMME 2

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ROMEO & JULIET  
LE CORSAIRE  
JAN. 10TH, 13TH, 31ST,  
FEB. 3RD, 14TH.

#### PROGRAMME 3

THE NUTCRACKER  
IVAN THE TERRIBLE  
LEGEND OF LOVE  
JAN. 14TH, 16TH, 19TH,  
FEB. 4TH, 6TH, 9TH.

#### PROGRAMME 4

IVAN THE TERRIBLE  
LEGEND OF LOVE  
LA BAYADERE  
JAN. 15TH, 17TH, 20TH,  
FEB. 5TH, 7TH.

#### PROGRAMME 5

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY  
THE STONE FLOWER  
SPARTACUS  
JAN. 21ST, 23RD, 26TH,  
29TH, FEB. 11TH, 13TH.

#### PROGRAMME 6

THE STONE FLOWER  
SPARTACUS  
RAYMONDA  
JAN. 22ND, 24TH, 27TH,  
FEB. 10TH, 12TH.

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THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



# Clinton emerges clear victor in debate as Bush runs out of fight

■ The president found himself in trouble in the latest TV debate when forced to stop attacking his opponent and stick to policy issues

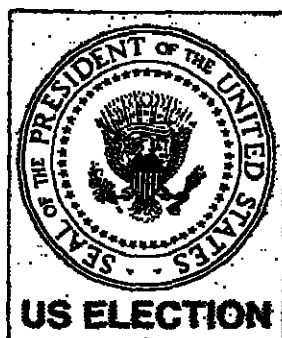
By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ROBERT WORCESTER

AMERICA'S first Democratic administration since the 1970s looked increasingly inevitable yesterday after a second presidential debate on Thursday evening in which President Bush not only failed to draw blood, but hardly even tried.

If Mr Bush had intended to continue the ferocious assault on Bill Clinton's character that Dan Quayle had begun earlier in the week, his plans were scuppered at the outset when the audience demanded the candidates stop "trash-ing" each other. They were compelled to stick to policy issues, where Mr Clinton enjoyed an indisputably superior command of the facts and figures.

Ross Perot produced another lively anti-establishment tirade, but his novelty and folksiness appeared to be wearing thin. His importance comes in how much support he takes from the other two candidates. A poll of 1,394 viewers showed 54 per cent thought Mr Clinton carried the night, 25 per cent Mr Bush and 20 per cent Mr Perot. Of 100 uncommitted voters only seven plumped for Mr Bush.

The sole glimmer of hope for the Bush camp yesterday was an ABC News poll, taken before the debate, that showed Mr Clinton only seven points ahead, his smallest lead in weeks. Whether that was a rogue, or reflected a real narrowing of the gap, remains to be seen, but it was almost lost in a deluge of other bad news. New figures yesterday showed the American trade deficit surged to \$9 billion in August, the worst in 21 months, with exports recording their biggest decline in five years. Less than 12 hours earlier Mr Bush had told millions of viewers that "the thing that has saved us in this global economic slowdown has been our exports".



The Democrat-controlled house judiciary committee, armed with a welter of damaging new evidence, formally requested a Watergate-style special prosecutor to investigate a possibly criminal cover-up of the administration's pre-war support for Iraq. The Justice Department, FBI and CIA are fighting a semi-public internecine war to avoid blame, and Mr Bush's strongest electoral card, his Gulf war victory, has been all but neutralised.

Even the president's claim to have ended the Soviet nuclear threat is being questioned. He and President Yeltsin of Russia agreed last June to eliminate two-thirds of their nuclear arsenals, including all land-based multiple-warhead missiles. James Baker, then Secretary of State, predicted a treaty by September 1. Prompted by Al Gore, Mr Clinton's running mate, Bush aides now admit the Russians have raised numerous "technical" reservations and no treaty is imminent.

Displaying his confidence, Mr Clinton has meanwhile ordered aides to consider ways of building an accelerated recovery programme into his economic plans lest the recession continues next year. This would reportedly involve an immediate short-term boost in federal spending and expanded tax cuts, deferring deficit reduction measures until that

"front-loading" had stimulated the economy.

Thursday night's debate in Richmond, Virginia, was seen as one of Mr Bush's last chances to turn the race around, but he again failed to make a compelling case for his re-election or against Mr Clinton.

The audience asked the questions and the candidates perched on stools, an unprecedented format for a presidential debate but one to which Mr Clinton has repeatedly returned ever since the New Hampshire primary. His greater ease was clear from the way he sauntered towards his questioners, one hand in his pocket, and rattled off answers point by point.

Three times the cameras caught Mr Bush looking at his watch. His strongest blows were to suggest that "character is part of being president" and "you can't turn the White House into the Waffle House". In his closing statement Mr Bush issued an almost plaintive appeal. He asked viewers to imagine the debate being interrupted by the announcement of an international crisis. Who would have "the perseverance, the character, the integrity, the maturity" to handle it? "I hope I'm that person."

The final debate takes place in East Lansing, Michigan, on Monday. The importance of this debate is that it is the last chance Mr Clinton has to blow it. If he does not, it is hard to see how the president can overcome the huge deficit of support he faces. It is not enough for the president to do well; he has to deliver a knockout blow and from his performance over the last week, this appears unlikely.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori and a visiting professor of government at the LSE.



Debating point: President Bush in a light exchange with Ross Perot during the second pre-election TV contest

## Madonna whips up election apathy

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NO ONE took any notice of the presidential debate which was on television at the party in New York to launch the release of Madonna's new book *Sex*. Perhaps this was because the 800 or so close friends of America's most famous sex idol were more interested in observing a man having the face of Madonna tattooed onto his buttocks.

Perhaps it was the appealing sight of a leather-clad woman lounging in a bath of popcorn. Then again, it could have been the two men, suspended by chains from the ceiling and whipping each other, that distracted the assembled guests from the democratic process.

Whatever discussion of the literary merits of Madonna's book may have been taking place, they were drowned out by the grunts and squeals of couples simulating sexual intercourse on raised platforms throughout the converted garage in Greenwich Village. Anyone who was seeking refuge in the men's rest room found their way blocked by a woman in a cat-suit being whipped with a liquorice cat o' nine tails. It was the sort of book launch Nero might have enjoyed.

In case anyone had not seen every inch of the pop star already, large pictures from the book, which shows the singer performing as only she can, were on display — at a petrol pump in her suspenders, hitch-hiking in the nude and so on.

Madonna herself even turned up briefly, wearing the outfit of a Swiss milkmaid and flanked by bodyguards. A few of the guests apparently

recognised the author with her clothes on, and she left quickly before being mobbed.

A copy of *Sex* was exhibited in a glass box at the door and guarded by two men in camouflage outfits who politely informed guests: "Touch the book and Wham! Splat! You die" — a turn of phrase which echoes the literary style of Madonna herself, who wrote the *Sex* text.

Guests were required to produce identification as well as an invitation (depicting Madonna in bondage) before being allowed in. The party was paid for by Warner Brothers, Madonna's record company, and a number of the company's executives attended the bash dressed in priestly robes and looking somewhat uncomfortable.

At a similar party held to launch the book in Milan, the designer Karl Lagerfeld explained what the book is all about. "For me, it's like a sex cookbook. It's an illustration of how to do it," he said.



Nero: very much his sort of book launch

## Murdoch article riles le Carré

BY BEN MACINTYRE

BARELY out of its swaddling clothes, Tina Brown's new-born *New Yorker* has been plunged into the sort of literary dispute that the British excel at, and Americans find rather baffling.

This week John le Carré, the British novelist, sent an incandescent letter across the Atlantic to the British-born Ms Brown in which he accused her of publishing "one of the ugliest pieces of partisan journalism in a long life of writing".

The article in question was an unflattering piece in the October 12 issue of America's most prestigious literary magazine about the new biography of Rupert Murdoch by William Shawcross, a friend of Mr le Carré's. The book contains an unfavourable chapter about Harold Evans, Ms Brown's husband and a former editor of *The Times*, who was sacked by Mr Murdoch in 1982.

Mr le Carré said that the attack was a blatant attempt by Ms Brown to get back at Mr Murdoch on her husband's behalf; that she had done so without declaring her conflict of interest was, he said, "shabby". She had published the piece "to rubbish the author and his judgments in advance of the book's publication in America". The biography will be published in America next February.

Ms Brown responded with a blistering fax to Mr le Carré, in which she described his remarks as "extraordinarily sexist". She added: "You are, of course, quite wrong in your assumption that I am banging some drum for Harry."

As for the accusation that



Brown: denies "banging some drum" for husband

she was trying to stifle the American publication of Mr Shawcross's book at birth, Ms Brown responded that the "chattering classes were raising their eyebrows" at the book's "bland" tone.

What at first glance appeared as an isolated spat between a clutch of British writers has now blown up into a debate about standards of journalism. Perhaps Mr le Carré's most ringing remark was that "you can detect the entry of the degenerate British standards of journalism and I find that deeply disturbing". Some literary figures here have already expressed concern that a British journalist is editing the most famous American magazine.

In London the full text of Mr le Carré's missive was being offered by Mr Shawcross's publicity agent, but only to those who would allow him space to defend his view of Mr Murdoch. Mr le Carré declined to add to the invective of his letter.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Pretoria proposes amnesty

Cape Town: Crimes committed in the defence of apartheid will be pardoned under an indemnity bill published yesterday by the South African government. But there is no guarantee that the legislation will not be torn up by the African National Congress if it comes to power (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, said that a general amnesty would have to be negotiated with the ANC before a transfer of power to an interim government. The ANC has already said that the question must be left to the interim government.

Mr Coetsee thought it unlikely that the ANC would scrap the measure since it also covers crimes committed by ANC members. In any case, Mr Coetsee said, the indemnity would not be likely to apply to torturers or policemen who killed detainees.

#### Morocco votes

Rabat: Moroccans began voting in local elections after King Hassan called for a big turnout and the government promised a free poll. Thirteen million are eligible to elect 22,282 members of 1,544 municipal councils. Results will be out today. (Reuters)

#### Jets stored

Canberra: Australia reassured Southeast Asian neighbours over its decision to almost double its F111 air strike force with 18 used American F111s. The government denied any defence policy change and will keep the jets in storage. (Reuters)

#### Experts fly in

Baghdad: Fifty UN arms experts arrived in Baghdad to dig out information on Iraq's ballistic missiles, but their leader, Niklas Smedbohm, said that he expected no problems with his Iraqi counterparts despite reports anticipating a confrontation. (Reuters)

#### Aid restored

Colombo: Britain is to restore economic aid to Sri Lanka, suspended since London's envoy was expelled last year. Separately, Colombo appointed a retired navy commander to investigate the massacre of 164 people by Tamil guerrillas this week. (Reuters)

#### Canny move

Peking: Campbell's soups are proving a hit in China. In the southern province of Guangdong, alphabet soup and other varieties of the American company's products are on sale. Soon they will be available in Peking and Shanghai. (AP)

#### Body blows

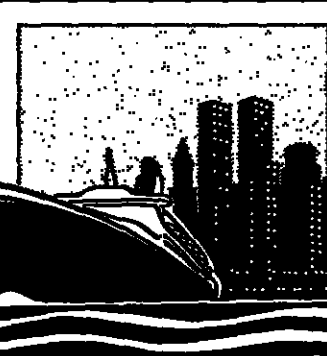
Richmond, Texas: A fight broke out between funeral home employees and a man whose father's body was dumped on his porch after he was unable to pay cremation costs. The mortuary owner may face charges of abuse of a corpse. (AP)

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STYLE & TRAVEL

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right up the German coast on consultation on matters affecting them. German representa-

er the British found this reassuring is not recorded.



## Smugglers of uranium are seized in Germany

For the second time in a week German police have intercepted atomic contraband in what is being hailed by the authorities as a blow to the growing 'atomic mafia'

By ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A QUANTITY of smuggled weapons-grade uranium from the former communist bloc has been seized by German police near Munich. It was announced yesterday. It is the second time smuggled atomic material has been intercepted in Germany within a week, but the first time the material has been suitable for making an atomic military device.

Friedrich Palmer, a senior customs official, said the seizure, the result of a big police operation, was "a blow against the atomic mafia". Seven people were arrested during the operation, most of them from Czechoslovakia, along with 2.2 kilograms of highly radioactive uranium 234, 235 and 238, enough to create nuclear weapons. Herr Palmer said that it was thought to have come through Poland but its origins are still unclear. He said some of the suspects

had offered it for sale for \$500,000 (£294,000).

The suspects and the material were seized in their car at a car park near Munich in a raid by special police. According to police, the uranium was securely packed and none of the radiation had leaked.

The uranium may form part of a 20-kilogram consignment now thought to be somewhere in Germany. Its existence was revealed last weekend by a smuggler who was seized with five others by police in Frankfurt last weekend, together with a quantity of caesium 137 and strontium 90 which had been left in a luggage-locker at the railway station. Most of those arrested on that occasion were Poles. The authorities subsequently imposed a strict ban on further reporting of the case as they sought the other members of the conspiracy.

The collapse of the communist bloc, with its nuclear power stations, weapons and expertise, has led to fears in the West that material and know-how will be sold to regimes elsewhere in the world. In this context, a particularly worrying sign in this week's case is the very low price asked by the smugglers.

In Berlin Klaus Töpfer, the German environment minister, asked Colonel-General Matvei Burlakov, the commander of former Soviet forces in eastern Germany, to ensure nuclear stocks were safe from black marketeers.

Joschka Fischer, environment minister of Hesse state where Frankfurt police made last weekend's swoop, said federal and regional authorities needed to join forces to prevent Germany from becoming a centre for East-West nuclear smuggling. "If this case is followed by copy-cat acts then we will face a challenge more dangerous even than the narcotics problem," he told parliament.

□ Arms deal: Hans Schumacher, the foreign ministry spokesman, announced yesterday that Bonn will supply Hungary with equipment left over from the former East Germany's National People's Army (NVA). Bonn has had requests from other former East bloc states including Poland and Bulgaria for discount arms from the NVA, which was disbanded after German unification in 1990.

Heavy weapons such as tanks and warplanes, which would contravene the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty on arms limitation, would not be included. (Reuters)



The survivor: a dazed Aksum Ismail after he was pulled from the rubble of a 16-storey block of flats in Helipolis, 82 hours after it had collapsed in Egypt's worst earthquake. A French sniffer dog named

Loggi led rescue workers to the only person to be found alive amid the devastation, in which more than 500 people died. He said he drank his urine to survive. His wife and

daughter died by his side. "My daughter kept asking me for a drink of Pepsi," Mr Ismail said with tears in his eyes. More than 60 bodies had been dragged from the debris of the building. The dog's handler, Joulyne

Pointeau, said: "Loggi went into the debris through a very small hole. He came out and barked four times. I knew he had found someone alive." The European Commission has granted £394,000 to help victims.

## Georgian town still acclaims its tyrant son as a saviour

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN GORI

HE is still there. Towering vast and stubborn in his bronze greatcoat, Josef Djugashvili, better known as Stalin, presides over the main square in his hometown of Gori atop a vast marble plinth. Not a speck of critical graffiti defaces the statue and there have been no serious attempts to have it removed. Gori's residents retain an awe-filled admiration towards the dictator, despite Khrushchev, Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union. They still call him by his pet childhood name of "Soso" and insist that he knew nothing of the purges; Beria, his henchman, was to blame of course.

Nearby stands the sprawling Stalin museum and in the grounds a small shrine housing the two-room hovel where he grew up, lovingly reconstructed. Beside it stands his personal railway carriage.

The museum was closed "for repairs" some months ago but babushkas at the entrance say the closure is temporary. Asked whether they do not think the time has come to close or recast the museum, they cackle in disagreement. "Stalin won the war. He was a great man," said one. Another



Stalin: inspires awe in residents of Gori



added: "He was a true Georgian patriot."

The worship of Stalin is not confined to the elderly. In the town's sole hotel, he is the topic of conversation of the group of young soldiers from the newly-formed Georgian Guard who idly stroke their rifle barrels and dispatch glass after glass of brandy and sweet champagne. Georgian troops can certainly hold their drink.

"Great men often have weaknesses and Soso tended to excess," said one. "But I tell my little son that he was a hero. Why not?"

Elsewhere in Georgia, such fervour is considered a little odd these days — but only a little. Vachang Sanikidze, a Tbilisi journalist, sees the phenomenon as the expression of Georgia's preference for nationalist clan-building over ideology. "Our psychology is very confused. People see no contradiction between declaring Stalin and Shevardnadze as Georgian heroes. Both are members of the family and nothing else really matters."

Tbilisi has its own secret Stalin museum, run by an enthusiast who collects recordings of the great man's speeches and personal effects ranging from his tobacco tin to his handkerchief.

Gori's modern claim to fame, a large Russian base, was handed over to the Georgians two weeks ago and local troops are now being trained

here before being sent to defend the breakaway region of Abkhazia. The Russians smashed most of the equipment before leaving and insisted that their successors pay hard currency before they would hand over any tanks.

Colonel Vachang Vlashidze, in charge of the base, claps his hand to his forehead in dismay as a trainee tank driver lurches out of the shed taking the left door with him. "Steer, Steer," he yells in vain.

## 'Dead' woman kept alive to give birth

By ANATOL LIEVEN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

IN a case with echoes of a British court's decision this week to order a woman to have a caesarean, an 18-year-old German woman, brain-dead after a road accident, is being kept alive artificially for six months to bear her child.

Doctors in Erlangen, near Nuremberg, have declared that although under German law the woman is now dead, the right of the unborn child to life takes precedence. The Roman Catholic Church sup-

ports the action and a leader of the Lutheran Church said that he had no objections as long as the father of the child and the parents of the girl wanted the baby to be born.

In contrast, a leading feminist, Alice Schwarzer, declared: "The Pope will be pleased with this — woman as a machine for childbearing. I find it perverse. Children have a right to a living mother and women have a right to control their own bodies."

## Chernobyl use angers Germans

By ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the four reactors at the Chernobyl plant in the Ukraine, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, has resumed operation to produce electricity for the country during the winter. The decision provoked a furious reaction in the German parliament yesterday. Klaus Kuebler, an opposition spokesman from the Social Democratic Party, has demanded that German aid should be made dependent on countries meeting environmental safety standards, in the same way that it is now contingent on respect for human rights.

Dr Klaus Töpfer, the environment minister, has demanded that Europe stop importing energy from the Ukraine. He said that Germany will try to improve the security of Chernobyl through the creation of a special safety authority, but he hoped that the Ukrainian parliament would keep its promise to close the plant by the end of next year.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Berlin bids farewell to Brandt

Berlin: This city said farewell to Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor and its best-known adopted son. Thousands of Berliners filed past his casket in the building where Brandt once served as mayor of the city's western half. He died last week of intestinal cancer. There will be a state funeral today before a private burial. (Reuters)

## Angola impasse

Luanda: Neither side won an overall majority in Angola's presidential elections. President dos Santos won 49.5 per cent of the vote and Jonas Savimbi, the former rebel leader, 40.5 per cent, requiring a second ballot. But the sides may agree to share power.

## War 'is over'

Maputo: President Chissano of Mozambique told a rally that a ceasefire had started and the 16-year civil war was officially over after the signing of a peace agreement with the Renamo rebels. (Reuters)

## Kurds attacked

Ankara: Turkish troops attacked Turkish Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq who are retreating towards Turkey under attack by rival Iraqi Kurds, state television reported. Yet fighters raided the rebel positions for the third day. (AP)

## Vodka tonic

Moscow: Russia has imposed a 100 per cent tariff on imports of alcohol to try to protect domestic vodka producers. Vodka produced in former Soviet republics is in short supply, while imported liquor is widely available. (Reuters)

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# Half of Chinese old guard decides to bow out of politburo

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

**More reformists are likely to replace the old and ailing conservatives who are voluntarily stepping down**

MORE than half of China's ruling politburo is to resign during this week's Communist party congress in Peking, including Yang Shangkun, the country's president.

Eight of 14 politburo members have asked to step down and have requested that they should not be considered for election to the new 175-member central committee, according to a report which was published yesterday in the Communist press.

No reason has been given for the exodus from the politburo, but there are reformists and conservatives among the eight and the explanation appears to be simply that they are too old.

At 85, Mr Yang is 20 years older than the unofficial retirement age of 65. Mr Yang, a reformist ally of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, is expected to keep his title as president until the annual parliamentary session early next year, when it is rumoured he will hand over to Jiang Zemin, the party leader.

Mr Jiang is said to feel that he gets too few opportunities to travel as a Communist leader in a non-communist world, and will be invited abroad more if he is president as well as party chief.

Two hardliners, Song Ping and Yao Yilin, both aged 75, are stepping down not only from the politburo but also from its standing committee, the elite group of six men which in theory has ultimate power. Their vacant seats are expected to be filled by reformists in elections next week.

Two men aged over 65 will remain on the politburo and its standing committee. They are Mr Jiang, 66, and Qiao Shi, 67, the secret police chief. Both are considered too important to step down just because of their age. The others who will go are Qin Jiwei, 78, the minister of defence; Wan Li, 76, the chairman of parliament; Wu Xueqian, 71, a former foreign

minister; Yang Ruda, 66, the party secretary in Sichuan province; and Li Ximing, 66, the unpopular headline party secretary of Peking. Like President Yang, those holding government posts will keep them until parliament meets early next year.

The news of the politburo changes was disclosed by the Peking-run newspaper, *Wen Wei Po*, which is published in Hong Kong but frequently used by China's Communists to leak information which they are not ready to announce officially. The newspaper appeared to rule out any suggestion that the men had fallen out of favour, saying: "It is understood that the top leadership level and the praesidium have given a high appraisal of these senior people's noble character and sterling integrity."

That "top leadership level" is, ironically, a group of even older men, all in their eighties.



Yang retaining the presidency for now

who hold ultimate power, among them Mr Deng, 88, and his conservative rival, Chen Yun, a year his junior. Mr Deng retains no official position, while Mr Chen heads the central advisory commission, which has itself recommended that it be abolished during this congress. The commission has wielded little power but great influence as the institutional home for veteran revolutionaries who are too old to do anything else. An indication of the state of health of its members came earlier this week when Mr Chen was too ill to turn up to see it abolished.

Usually, when asked about the state of the reclusive Mr Chen's health, spokesmen are apt to keep up the fiction that he is healthy and alert. His son, however, admitted that his father was not fit enough to attend the meeting, and, in the first acknowledgement of his father's senility, said Mr Chen found it difficult to grasp what was going on.

Mr Deng, who is frail but has been seen in public several times this year, has accepted a special invitation to the congress, which continues this weekend, but has not yet appeared.

□ Hong Kong: China last night pressed its attack on Hong Kong's plan for funding its new airport project, with a Peking official alleging that the price had soared almost 70 per cent in less than a year. Hu Houcheng, a member of the Sino-British airport committee, said that the cost had soared to \$HK164 billion (nearly £13 billion) from \$HK98.6 billion given last year when China and Britain signed a memorandum of understanding on the project.

Analysts noted that Mr Hu chose to compare the original cost estimated at 1991 prices with the latest figure, which is adjusted for inflation up to 1997, when the airport is due to open. (Reuters)



Glittering prizewinner: Rigoberta Menchu in her Indian garb is hailed by supporters outside Guatemala City

## Guatemalan crusader wins Nobel prize

BY DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI AND DANNY PENMAN

RIGOBERTA Menchu, 33, a Central American champion of human rights awarded the Nobel peace prize yesterday, has had a life scarred by persecution and exile.

The Indian peasant leader returned to her native Guatemala this week for only the fourth time in 11 years, saying the prize would focus attention on her homeland where some 100,000 people have died in political violence over the past 30 years. An estimated 40,000 people have "disappeared", twice the number who suffered that fate in Argentina and Chile.

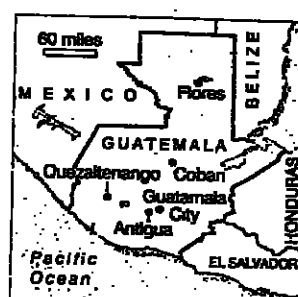
She said the prize was "a reaffirmation of our culture, our values and of our very existence. Despite all, we are still alive, and we are still moving forward... next year has been declared the International Year of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. The Nobel

peace prize comes at just the right time to focus attention on our struggle.

"Using the context of the international year, we want a discussion of the whole question of legislation on indigenous peoples' rights."

Ms Menchu believes the prize has transformed the approach of the Guatemalan government to her. "Before, I was just an Indian. I was backward, as all Indians are. I was just the daughter of some peasants. Now people receive me and I'm somebody of importance."

She called for a rethink of development and the attitude of international organizations towards it. "If these things aren't thoroughly solved then you don't have real democracy and then tomorrow there's another outbreak of war," she said. Ms Menchu believes the Ameri-



cas are entering an explosive period, and cites the examples of Peru and Ecuador. "If we look at the situation in Peru, look at Sendero Luminoso [the Shining Path Maoist guerrillas], what you see is an incredible pent-up fury and rage and hate. Sendero, it's an escape valve, which can explain why women are so prominent in Sendero's activities. Women are sweet-natured, yes, but women are affected by many things which can have very powerful reactions in them."

Her nomination, which was supported by past Nobel winners such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town and Oscar Arias, the former Costa Rican president, has caused consternation in the Guatemalan government and military, which complain that she is a militant supporter of left-wing guerrillas who have been fighting in the highlands since the 1960s. The award also brought protests from American conservatives.

In an effort to sabotage her nomination the government proposed its own candidate, Elisa Molina, who works with the deaf and blind.

But others believe her courageous battle for Indian rights deserved to be recognised on the 500th anniversary of the colonisation of the Americas. She travels the world, dressed always in the multi-coloured embroidered huipil blouse and headgear of the Quiché Maya, one of 23 tribes in Guatemala.

## Sudanese Christians 'forced to convert'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION  
CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 60,000 refugees have fled starvation, torture and enforced conversion to Islam in Sudan, according to a Roman Catholic bishop visiting London this week.

The Right Rev Joseph Gasi Abangite said priests have been imprisoned, tortured and have disappeared while Catholics and other Christians are being forced to convert by being starved into submission. He painted a desolate picture of a starving and forgotten country where all but a few Catholic schools have been closed and children are taught Arabic and the Koran at the expense of their native African languages and local customs.

The bishop said emergency food supplies are being offered to other nations or diverted to the army. An airlift run by the Lutheran World Federation and supported by Christian Aid is helping feed 300,000 people in southern Sudan.

His diocese of Torit-Buramba in the remote south-west has been under the mostly Christian rebel control of the Sudan People's Liberation Front since early last year. If Yambio should ever return to the control of the Islamic government of General Omar Bashir, the bishop faces certain reprisals or even banishment.

Up to 4 per cent of Sudan's 26 million people are Christian. Bishop Gasi said 60,000 had fled the country. More than 30,000 are languishing in refugee camps in Zaire, 16,000 are in three camps in the Central African Republic, and the rest live among the local Zairean population.

"Elsewhere in the world, people live peacefully with Muslims," the bishop said. "This government is doing something that is disgracing Islam. Their slogan is 'one country, one language, one religion'. They convert people with food or money. Some say they are Muslims, take the food, and the next day they go to pray in church."

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Political control of ecclesiastical appointments no longer takes place in practice, says Edward Norman

## The unravelling of church and state

The erosion of the Church of England has been going on for over a century. The dislodging of a bit more — as contemplated in proposals of the Synod working party chaired by Sir William van Straubenzee — is not in itself of any great moment. This time it is the release of ecclesiastical appointments from political control: in effect cutting out the role of the prime minister in initiating or sanctioning preferments in the Church.

Whatever the extent of the heat and light which will be generated in the forthcoming debates, the issue is, however, largely a symbolic one. For the truth is that church appointments have anyway, for at least a couple of decades, been almost entirely in the hands of the higher church authorities themselves. What is proposed now in principle is what has already happened in practice: the issue in reality is about the most suitable

means of formalising a change that has already taken place. In existing arrangements bishops are chosen officially by the Crown from among names submitted by the Church. What actually happens is that a small group of senior churchmen operate a system of internal patronage which is so effective and so discreet that few are conscious of it. As with the invention of synodical government itself, the chief losers by any formalising and bureaucratising of the appointments procedures are likely to be these senior bishops, for it is they who are at present sovereign in the process. Most senior bishops themselves are these days chosen from among the suffragans — and they are already appointed without effective political participation.

Some will lament the proposed changes because they will see them as indicators of an eventual disestablishment in England. In the sense that a general series of adjustments to constitutional practice is clearly well established, and that the ties of church and state have been unravelling now for a century or more, that will be a correct diagnosis.

But each of these steps has been taken in isolation, without raising explicit issues about the theory of established religion itself, and there is no reason to believe that the present climate is particularly likely to prove different. The establishment of the Church is not dependent on a political voice in ecclesiastical appointments, or on political participation in any part of

church life. Establishment exists, in constitutional theory, where there is a relationship between law and religious opinion. That exists in a particularly structured form in England, for historical reasons.

Practical secularisation of government, the transfer of moral collectivism from the churches to the charities, and the value-pluralism of the intellectual culture, are not really causes of the lessening of ties between church and state: they are the evidence that changes have already occurred which render the exclusive protection of one church increasingly less attractive to the public conscience.

As far as appointments go, history provides stacks of examples

of established churches, especially in Catholic lands, where there have been high levels of political participation, or no participation at all. It is not a decisive consideration in the constitutional status of religion, though it may sometimes produce conflict.

Now it is often said that Crown appointments guarantee that independent voices can be heard in the Church. But to the extent that prime ministers did once ensure the promotion of such people the results cannot be evenly judged. Eccentricity may be an engaging feature in some locations of the social landscape, but it is not especially desirable in the leadership of Christ's Church. A healthy institution requires independent thinkers: truth is advanced by

questioning and by the consequent controversies. Independent thinkers, however, do not usually make the best leaders of an institution. Their independence is probably best expressed from within educational establishments, or from a niche in the worlds of journalism and broadcasting.

The difficulty at the present time is that the progressive secularisation of just those areas of influence is removing the chances of independent critical thought on church matters just when the professionalisation of the institutional leadership of the Church can furnish no place for independence there either. This is a serious matter, which needs to be addressed. But it falls under the heading of church investment in

higher education rather than in a consideration of appointments systems.

Institutions tend, whatever the system, to get the leaders they deserve. The available pool from which these candidates are drawn, that is to say, has prescribed dimensions. Those who are dissatisfied with the leadership of the Church of England should not get upset about the mode of appointment but should turn instead to doing something about the recruitment of better priests in the first place.

Until church policy sorts itself out on a wider front, which may take some decades, it is probably best to allow the current practices to continue, but simply to eliminate the political and highly formal stage. The only worthwhile tests, for either virtue or utility, are how they will advance Christ's kingdom.

The author is Chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury.

## A plague on these futile anthologies

Publishing's latest genre is a waste of paper, argues Daniel Johnson

Love of literature is better nurtured by devouring whole books than by grazing on goblets. Yet anthologies are becoming the cockroaches in the nests of British publishers. Literary editors groan under their weight. Among the many which have come my way in recent weeks are *The Faber Book of America*, edited by Christopher Ricks and William L. Vance; *The Penguin Book of British Comic Writing*, edited by Patricia Craig; *The Oxford Book of Villains*, edited by John Mortimer; *The Virago Book of Love and Loss*, edited by Georgina Hamrick; and *The Penguin Book of Fights, Feuds and Heartfelt Hatreds*, edited by Philip Kerr. These and countless similar volumes are jostling for

Wooster's Aunt Agatha a few pages after a series of quotations by Adolf Hitler? Ghastly jocular juxtapositions are inevitable in this bastardised literary form. Another kind of lapse leads him to place an extract from Rumpole at Sea next to a poem by Shelley. The most charitable view of this is that Mr Mortimer was encouraged to include some of his own writing by his publisher.

The same criticisms apply to Philip Kerr, one of the brightest young crime writers around. He has certainly not enhanced his reputation with his *Penguin Book of Fights, Feuds and Heartfelt Hatreds*. Hitler pops up here, too, explaining how he became an anti-Semite, sandwiched between



How does Mr Mortimer get involved in this bastardised literary form?

James Agate and Robert Lynd. There is no editorial commentary, although later on there are several other pieces on anti-Semitism — by Primo Levi and the Russian writer Vitali Vitaliev. Deadly serious material such as this is trivialised by appearing alongside extracts from journalistic ephemera: Harold Evans's *Good Times*, *Bad Times*, a book about the *Sun* called *Stick It Up Your Punter*, a piece by the *Evening Standard* diary editor on "Petty Feuds in Journalism".

Few if any of the stories by women writers collected for *The Virago Book of Love and Loss* by Georgina Hamrick (herself a fine short story writer) are old chestnuts and most deserve to be better known — but not as part of a "seductive collection", as the blurb calls it, none too subtly aimed at the friends and comforters of the lovesick or lovelorn. A story which would shine alone becomes tedious when it is the umpteenth treatment of the same theme.

At least *The Faber Book of America* has no therapeutic subtext. Christopher Ricks, one of the two editors, is among the best of living literary critics, and this volume reflects his own erudition and sound judgment. Nor is the organising principle, a nation and culture, by any means ridiculous. Yet the exercise of cramming everything from *America the Beautiful* to Lillian Hellman's *Scoundrel Time* between hard covers fails to arouse enthusiasm. As in *Desert Island Discs*, one of the attractions of the anthology is supposed to be that the selection offers insight into the personality of the anthologist. But Ricks, I feel sure, has a livelier mind than is reflected here.

Of this batch, Patricia Craig's *The Penguin Book of British Comic Writing* has the fewest pretensions and is possibly for that reason the most enjoyable. It is pleasant to meet again old favourites from this page — Philip Howard, Bernard Levin, Alan Coren — with nothing else in common besides being good for a laugh. Unlike love, hatred or villains, comedy can wriggle out of the anthologist's straitjacket.

But they sell, these anthologies. How boring do they have to become before the sales dry up? Must anthologists start anthologising one another? There is already a *Smithsonian Book of Books*. It may not be long before we see *The Penguin Book of Penguins*, *The Virago Book of Viragos*, even *The Faber Book of Fabians*. Maybe then the readers will suddenly send a message to publishers, via their pockets: *That's enough anthologies, Ed.*

## Betrayed by the intellectuals

Years of state funding and flattery have sapped the spirit of the French intelligentsia, writes Charles Bremner



Where are the rebels now? In 1970 Jean-Paul Sartre was arrested for selling his banned newspaper

In one of many similar laments the *L'Événement du Jeudi* magazine wondered who was the modern muscled intellectual, the 1990s answer to Voltaire, Hugo, Zola or Sartre. The answer, it said, was not a thinker at all but Dr Bernard Kouchner, the dashing minister of health and humanitarian action and darling of the media. The intellectual classes have abandoned their time-honoured role of stirring things up. The main reason is that, recruited to the court of a Left Bank president and elevated to royal status by the media, they spend their time flatteringly or quarrelling with each other.

After being dazzled for some 30 odd years by their intellectual classes many French people are coming to the conclusion that the "intellectual" has grown pompous and complacent under the lavish, state-sponsored culture which began with André Malraux, General de Gaulle's culture minister in the 1960s, and really took off with President Mitterrand and Jack Lang, his ferociously fashionable culture minister and education tsar. Rather than fostering creativity and enlightening the masses, say the critics, King François's court has promoted banality and empty slogans.

Dissent has been springing up on a few fronts, from the people's heavy rejection of the pro-Maastricht unity of the Paris "nomenklatura" in the referendum to a clutch of recent books ridiculing the pretensions of the gilded thinking classes and in particular M Lang, the one-time Brechtian theatre director who has co-opted the creative world with his patronage.

Mitterrand's pharaonic monuments, starting with the Louvre Pyramid and the Grande Arche, are well-enough known already. The latest two, the Bastille Opera and the "Very Big Library" are bogged down in controversy and critical ridicule. While the management of the Bastille continues to live its own soap opera of infighting and mudslinging, the director of the future world's biggest library is being prosecuted for contracting irregularities and the critics are still snarling at Dominique Perrault's design for the building, a set of high-rise towers that would have made Leonid Brezhnev smile.

The latest expensive wheeze is the Arte television channel, a Mitterrand scheme which was launched on the national air waves two weeks ago. Financed by £142 million a year of taxpayers' money, Arte is a Franco-German project aimed at purveying the highest culture. Not surprisingly, viewers are not flocking to watch such prime-time items as documentaries on insects or pioneers in German-Soviet trade, and not even to the 20-year-old episodes of subtitled Monty Python, which it strangely pits against the national news on the popular channels. "See Arte and Suffer."

Most of the country have ignored the president's desire to improve them and stuck to the kitschy variety shows which litter what is officially known as the PAF, for Paysage Audiovisuel Français (French Audiovisual Landscape).

That expression, with its grand abstraction, is typical of the Leninist *langue de bois* which is often

employed by the philosopher president and his followers when they talk about such things as "building the European space". As Marc Fumaroli, one of the most vocal dissidents, points out in his book *L'Etat Culturel*, the achievements of Mitterrand's "state-sponsored Renaissance" are measured not in chefs d'oeuvre but in "espaces".

Most of the country have ignored the president's desire to improve them and stuck to the kitschy variety shows which litter what is officially known as the PAF, for Paysage Audiovisuel Français (French Audiovisual Landscape).

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"événements" and "actions", many worthy, like the proliferation of museums, and some just plain silly, like M Lang's blessing of graffiti vandals and decoration for Sylvester Stallone. The love of empty intellectual terminology has even led critics to call themselves "dialogue spaces".

M Fumaroli's point, shared by many, is that artists and writers have always flourished in independence and adversity, not in the stifling embrace of the state. One could not imagine André Gide or Paul Valéry jumping on the craven bandwagon of creative stars who signed on to M Lang's official campaign for a "lively and communicative yes" to Maastricht. It sounded awfully like those positions which the Soviet culture ministry used to extract from the writers' union.

Where, wonders M Fumaroli, are the great works of architecture, the cinema, novels, music or anything else generated by M Lang's largesse? All divisions of the arts are suffering from introspective sterility.

Occasionally someone comes along to expose the nonsense talked by the "intellos" and the politicians who emulate them. A current hit in the genre is the book *Les Petits Poissons Rouges* (Little Goldfish), by Pierre Boncompagni, a television producer who works on Bernard Pivot's popular literary talk-shows. Why, M Boncompagni asks, do the French listen so reverently while Bernard Henry-Lévi and all the philosophers and writers hold forth on subjects they know nothing about?

The two Marguerites, (Duras and Yourcenar), excel in such "planetary dissertation", he notes. Lately they have pronounced on such matters as ecology, communism, homosexuality in ancient Greece, the dimension of football pitches, the destiny of Japanese civilisation and the baking of four-grain bread. The model of high-flown fatuity was Malraux himself, says M Boncompagni. In *La Condition Humaine*, the minister-writer imparted such lofty insights as: "The 20th century will either be religious or it will not be."

None of this will deter French politicians from their belief that they must flaunt their culture to get elected. None would dare admit to a taste for a Jeffrey Archer. Mitterrand is, of course, the exquisite master of this field. He makes sure, for example, that the media keep abreast of his outings to his favourite bookshops and during the Gulf war the country learned that he was drawing on inspiration from a poet called Leon-Paul Fargue. Even humble mayors will mention that they are spending the holidays catching up on St Simon. The worship of intellectual brilliance is so deep-rooted that a little *l'esprit-majesté* from dissidents is not going to change things.

## Heseltine's bottom lines

THERE is more than a whiff of hypocrisy about Michael Heseltine's role in the announcement of the pit closures before the subject went to the cabinet and with only a handful of ministers in the know.

After staging the most sensational resignation from government in living memory when he walked out of a cabinet meeting in January 1986, Heseltine told every camera and newspaper in sight that he was resigning less over the merits of the rival Westland bids than over the principle of "cabinet collective responsibility".

In an article in the *News of the World* Heseltine delivered a stinging attack on decisions taken in secret without consulting cabinet colleagues. "Why did I make my stand and leave a cabinet I had been so proud to join? The fundamental reason is my refusal to accept decisions taken without the proper authority of cabinet. It is a constitutional matter," Heseltine railed.

Indeed it was. But is it not equally a constitutional matter that many members of the cabinet first read of the pit closures in Wednesday's newspapers? Why was

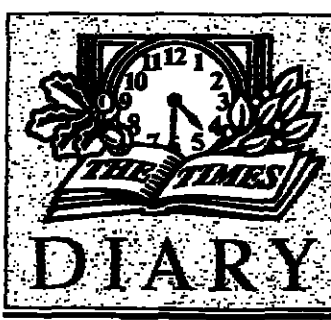
Heseltine apparently perfectly happy to be party to a secretive decision of the kind which almost seven years ago he had considered a resigning issue?

The most charitable view is that he has changed his mind about the nature of cabinet government. If so, the volte face is dramatic. Denouncing the government for its lack of collective leadership, Heseltine told Thames TV: "I left the cabinet because at that stage collective responsibility... was actually set on one side." Similarly he told *Weekend World*: "The cancelling of the choice of a discussion that could have established collective responsibility broke the workings of the constitution."

Asked to explain what constitutional differences the President of the Board of Trade perceived between the two events or whether he had simply changed his mind, a departmental spokesman denied any inconsistency in his minister's position. But then, perhaps, redundancy was weighing heavily on his mind.

## Close to the wind

WHEN they decided to put the flags out to welcome the EC summit yesterday Birmingham city elders could not have realised what a headache they were creating. The Foreign Office decreed that the



flags should be flown in alphabetical order, using the 12 countries' own names — D for Deutschland, H for Hellas and so on. All went well until officials came to the flags of Luxembourg and the Netherlands, placed next to each other under the FO's strictures. Council officials thought they had got it right. But when they stood back to examine their work they were less sure. The two flags are virtually identical, distinguishable only because one uses a darker shade of blue than the other.

Civic leaders, anxious to be welcoming, ordered a double, then a triple, check. They think they got it right but no one was sure yesterday — including, it was said, the Dutch and Luxembourg delegations.

As EC leaders sat around the conference table yesterday they were in familiar territory. The table

had been used for the Yugoslavian peace talks and was furrowed up the M1 for the occasion. The omens, however, are poor. Within hours of John Major bringing the Balkans conference to an end bitter fighting had resumed there.

## Out of place?

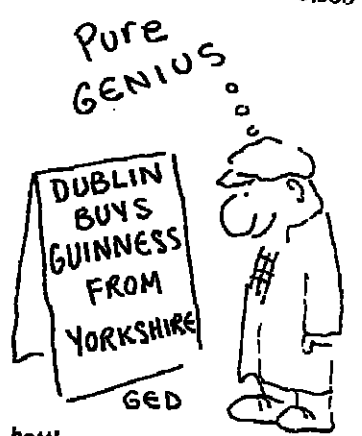
THE traditional calm of the English Speaking Union has been shattered by the decision of Lord Pym, a former foreign secretary, to invite King Hussein of Jordan to deliver the annual Churchill lecture next month. Set up in 1918 to promote international links, it is being urged to reconsider the decision.

Hussein will speak on Middle East affairs at Guildhall to a packed audience of ambassadors, peers and politicians. Alan Lee Williams, a former Labour MP and one-time director of the union, says: "King Hussein is not suitable because of his friendship and support for Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war. Feathers will fly."

Eric Moonman, another former MP and a vice-president of the Board of Deputies, has also written to Pym voicing his objections, but to no avail. King Hussein will still deliver the lecture on November 26, the anniversary of Churchill's birthday. "We don't set out to upset anyone," says Chris Coleman, the

union's marketing director. "But the views of the speaker cannot always accord with those of everyone in the audience."

Coals to Newcastle is perhaps an inappropriate phrase these days but how about Guinness to Dublin? A Yorkshire firm has picked up a lucrative contract to sell 150,000



bottles of the world's strongest brand of Guinness — to Ireland. Makes a circular trip around half of the EC: brewed in Dublin, bottled in Belgium, shipped to a S. West field wholesaler and then back across the Irish Sea. Guinness sold the Special Brew rights to the Belgians in the 1920s and it has not been sold in Ireland since.





## A LOW SUMMIT

■ EC leaders have their heads in the clouds

John Major cannot, surely, have believed his own words at Birmingham. The summit must, he said, "put an end to the economic and political turbulence" in the European Community. In the best conceivable conditions, a single day's confabulation could produce no more than a temporary lull, and yesterday's conditions were hardly propitious. With Mr Major distracted by the uproar over pit closures and no agreed panacea for the EC's troubles in sight, Birmingham could amount to little more than group therapy for leaders desperate to bring their voters back into line on Europe.

There was a little good news yesterday. At least some of those present now realise that confident messages that all Twelve will ratify Maastricht miss the point. The unresolved Danish question apart, the popular revolt over Maastricht will not be stilled by a display of united determination to press on with a treaty that Europe's peoples are not sure they want. Unfortunately, about the only thing the EC leaders could agree on at Birmingham is that they do not want to tear up Maastricht and start again. They have little time between now and the Edinburgh summit to rejoin the real debate in the streets.

This debate has expanded far beyond the treaty's substance, uncovering anxiety and resentment about the way the EC works now, and serious misgivings about the kind of European Union that Maastricht would create. These anxieties reach deep into Europe's history. Voters worry that Maastricht will weaken each country's democratic restraints on the exercise of political power. And they are not in a mood to take on trust vague assurances about the sanctity of national identity.

The task of winning confidence back has been complicated by recession. Maastricht and unemployment are becoming associated in people's minds. Even the crowning glory of the British presidency, the opening of the single market, could be threatened unless growth picks up. But the summit fluffed its best chance of renewed growth

yesterday, by failing to press France to accept America's latest offer on the Uruguay Round. This was a strategic error. Monetary union is at the heart of Maastricht: but the European Monetary System looks to few people like the key to prosperity and stability which the summit proclaimed it to be. Voters will not buy EMU at the price of a deflationary spiral to match that of the 1930s. The EC needs to be seen as part of the solution to recession, not a contributory cause.

Mr Major was right, therefore, yesterday to look beyond Maastricht and insist that people must be convinced that the course the politicians are charting is right, and that "European construction" is worth the sacrifices it will, under Maastricht, require. But he made little headway in fleshing out a response. He must come up with something much better than public sessions of the European Council to make the EC's workings genuinely open and comprehensible. His proposal to require the Commission to come up with "green papers" before proposing new laws has more substance, but is no substitute for clarifying the balance of power between the Commission and national governments.

On this key question of subsidiarity, the summit failed to mask deep divisions not only on methods, but principle. Small countries fear that weakening the Commission would lead to domination of the EC by Germany, France and Britain; poor ones, that a weaker Commission would mean a smaller "convergence" honeypot. Britain wants to roll back intrusive EC laws; France insists on defending the *acquis communautaire* of existing law. Mr Major must steer clear of a war of directives, in which decisions on where power should lie are forgotten in arguments over competing lists of what to scrap, what is sacrosanct. The EC has lost itself too long in quarrels which mean little to voters. Mr Major made a brave start at reaching for a new, more responsive and accessible tone yesterday. He has eight weeks to win assent, at Edinburgh, for policies to match.

## CABINET, WHAT CABINET?

■ Tories are right to question the Government's competence

Yesterday the Chancellor cut interest rates by a much needed 1 percentage point in an effort to prove that the government could do something right. Even that did not distract attention from the pit closures debate. Nor should it have.

Deciding to close 31 mines with the immediate loss of 30,000 jobs and perhaps 70,000 more in secondary industries was no small matter at the bottom of a recession. In part, it was economically foolish. But compounding the ruthlessness of the message was the incompetent manner of its delivery. Industrialist supporters of the Government rightly recoil from this crude mismanagement. Conservative supporters of the UDM, grateful for the support of the breakaway union in the miners' strike, feel shame at the lack of consultation about the closures.

Lady Thatcher was frequently excoriated for her hand-holding. Decisions were taken by Cabinet committees packed with her supporters and then rubber-stamped by full Cabinet. This was meant to change with her successor. For weeks after Mr Major's arrival, Cabinet ministers seemed to breathe the heady air of liberation. They could say what they thought in Cabinet — indeed, they were even asked for their opinions.

Mr Major has quickly returned to the bad old ways. Yesterday Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said he knew there was a problem with the coal industry but did not know what the solution would be. He was never consulted about the pit closures, and nor were many of his Cabinet colleagues. Even Gillian Shepard, the employment secretary, had no idea of the timetable.

The official version has it that Michael Heseltine planned to take his proposals to full Cabinet yesterday before making a parliamentary statement on Monday. But the profusion of leaks apparently forced British Coal into making the announcement on Tuesday instead. This does not ring true. Had the timetable remained the same — and there is no reason to suppose that it would not have done — the planned sequence of events would have involved closing some pits today, two days before the statement in Parliament. Anyway, it is hard to believe that a minister as robust as Mr Heseltine would allow himself to be swayed from his purpose by leaks.

No minister has yet explained convincingly why quite so many pits have to close. None has addressed the dangers of relying instead on coal that has to come halfway round the world before it reaches Britain. None has talked of the balance of payments implications or has justified the rigging of the electricity market that ensures that British coal cannot compete. If the behaviour of the NUM is the problem, as Lord Parkinson claims, why have the pits of the UDM not been treated with more consideration?

Mr Heseltine will face a deeply hostile House of Commons next Wednesday. There is even a danger that Labour will produce a motion moderate enough to ensure a Government defeat. Such a defeat was not inevitable. If it happens, it will be due to spectacular mishandling by politicians who ought to know better and whose survival depends on their learning better fast.

## LAST OF THE SPARTANS

■ Lord Franks handed down an example his country needs

In the shadow of his death, Lord Franks seems the last representative of an endangered English species: high mandarin administrator. The term the Great and the Good was invented for people like him, as surely as the boast "I am the greatest" was introduced by Muhammad Ali. Oliver Franks was not just a member of the First XI of the Great and the Good. He was its captain, wicket-keeper and last man in.

This is not a team that anyone can apply to join, though the United Kingdom is noisy with meretricious applicants. They will never take it, because a modest (even if disingenuous) reluctance for the public arena needs to be shown. Throughout his career Lord Franks continually tried to return to Oxford, earnestly as Cincinnatus wanted to get back to his plough. Intellectual eminence is joined. Lord Franks was a moral philosopher, and attributed his success at the Ministry of Supply during the war by reference to the philosophy of Kant.

A touch of the higher eccentricity is in order. In his early years Lord Franks was a notoriously cold fish, attracting the famous observations that now fill the obituaries. In social intercourse with him, an acquaintance observed: "One always has to break the ice, and when one does, one finds a lot of very cold water underneath." After being put through the Franks wringer, an Oxford don said: "Now I know what the Day of Judgment will be like, though I expect God

to be more human." As usual in Britain, a drawl of wintery wit helps. Lord Franks described the Pentagon as an immense monument to modern man's subservience to the desk, and defined an Oxford secret: "You may tell it to only one person at a time."

Lofty impartiality to worldly affairs is the final qualification. It made Lord Franks the obvious choice for chairman of committees on controversial or embarrassing topics. For the past generation he has been in the chair for such problematic affairs as Crichton Down and Oxford's role in higher education, official secrets, and the Falklands War, where his enquiry came to an untimely whitewashing conclusion. Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again. This is partly because it takes time and age to make the qualities of Greatness and Goodness visible. It is also because of the necessary shift in British public affairs from a citizen to a professional army. The increased activity of public life has destroyed the traditional breeding grounds of the Great and Good. Britain did not need them all quite as much as many of them thought it did. But it will always need men of the stature of Lord Franks.

The golden days of that elegant old network have gone, with its higher sinecures making possible service to the state interspersed with periods of intellectually rigorous leisure. We are all professionals now, even our great public amateurs.

## Pit cuts: the quest for an alternative

From Viscount Caldecote, FENG

Sir, So a billion pounds is to be spent on redundancy payments to 30,000 miners — but that is only for starters. At least another 20,000 people in ancillary industries will soon join the unemployed miners, costing close on half a billion pounds p.a. in social security payments and lost tax revenue.

In addition, the deficit balance on our overseas trade, already running at £12 billion p.a., will be further increased by the cost of importing millions of tons of foreign coal.

All these sacrifices might perhaps be worthwhile if there was any certainty of long-term advantage. But clearly there is not, for who can tell what the cost of gas and imported coal will be? Already the Major Energy Users' Council has warned of the possible adverse effects on power prices (letter, October 16).

It is shabby treatment, too, of men who have worked hard and effectively to make major improvements in productivity. And contrary to what Mr Heseltine has said, there is an alternative. How much better to invest these billions of pounds into the industry to make it yet more productive and reduce its costs.

That would be a much safer policy, bringing a rich dividend in employment and prosperity, instead of adding to the sterile misery of unemployment and the further decline in our industrial strength.

Yours faithfully,

CALDECOTE,

House of Lords.

From Mr Bernard C. R. Ory and

Mr Irvin Robinson

Sir, You reported on October 14 that Steven Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, has threatened to report National Power and PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for excessive profit-making. Yet we have seen no comment by him this week on the effect of the generators' decision to burn less coal.

Section 3 (3) of the Electricity Act 1989 says that Steven Littlechild and Michael Heseltine "have a duty to exercise their functions... to protect the interests of consumers of electricity... in respect of prices".

Steven Littlechild and Michael Heseltine owe it to us to explain why they have not intervened to prevent these pit closures that will devastate our community and will not benefit the electricity consumer.

Unemployment here in Mansfield is 11.7 per cent, and it is estimated that this may double if the closures proceed. Mansfield 2010 (a partnership organisation between the local business community and the district council) is trying to attract new business to replace mines that have already shut over the last ten years. We do not know how we can cope with the magnitude of the new closures.

Yours faithfully,

BERNARD ORY,

IRVIN ROBINSON,

Parkside, The Park,

Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr E. A. Rawes

Sir, British Coal is still a nationalised industry and its assets are therefore public assets. It apparently believes that each mine to be closed is worth nothing at all as a going concern and has only a scrap value.

As custodian of a public asset, is British Coal legally entitled to so assume, without even attempting to obtain offers for more than scrap value? If a union or anyone else were to make such an offer is British Coal entitled to ignore it?

Yours faithfully,

E. A. RAWES,

Casa Ortopédica, La Celina,

29690, Prov. de Málaga, Spain.

From Mr Alister Sutherland

Sir, Mr Heseltine is quoted as saying (report, October 14) that keeping open the existing 50 pits would mean that the average household electricity bill would be 3 per cent higher than it need be. The same report quotes Mr Neil Clarke, Chairman of British Coal, as saying that gas was 16 per cent more expensive than coal.

May we hope that both Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke will publish the quantitative economic evidence on which they are respectively relying?

Yours faithfully,

ALISTER SUTHERLAND,

Trinity College, Cambridge.

From Mr Duncan Heenan

Sir, In making the miners' redundancy pay (in excess of the statutory amount) dependent on their co-operation in closing down pits, the government is, as I see it, making this pay "contractual" from a tax point of view. The payment is therefore likely to attract income tax, whether or not the miners co-operate.

As this compensation will be paid in a single tax year, it could well be taxed at 40 per cent, reducing the actual cost to the government, and benefit to the miners, by £400 million. This tax is likely to be assessed in arrears, and thus avoid the miners' notice until after the event. One wonders whether this is by mistake or by design.

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN HEENAN,

21 Gothering Lane,

Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

## Oxbridge and others leagued as one

From Mr Howard Goldsobel

Sir, Your university league tables (October 12 and 13) are a bold effort, and I am all for them; but they still tell us little more than we knew already — namely that Oxbridge, London and a handful of large civic universities will always dominate a pecking order based mainly on resource allocation and research selectivity.

Research is a valuable activity, but its immediate importance to undergraduate teaching is exaggerated, particularly in the arts and social sciences. In fact, students in prestigious departments often complain that they never catch a sniff of the research bigwigs (which makes a nonsense of some professed staff/student ratios).

It is the quality of first-degree courses that the prospective applicant needs to know a lot more about. Only when the Higher Education Funding Council completes its rating of undergraduate courses in the "old" universities (as HMI did for the former polys) will we have a truly comparative picture of use to sixth-formers and parents.

Yours faithfully,

HOWARD GOLDSOBEL,

18 Russell Road, Moor Park,

Northwood, Middlesex.

October 14.

From Mr T. U. Burgner and

Mr Roger Brown

Sir, Your leader of October 14, "The ranking of universities", clearly shows that you have missed the point of universities' objections to your monolithic league-table. You urge the universities to help you do it better next time. But we believe the table was wrong in principle. Let us say why.

The claim by the compiler of the table, Professor Tom Cannon, that the study "included a much wider range of variables than any other I know of" (report, October 13) does not alter the fact that you have created a ranking whereby all institutions are measured by the ruler of the traditional research university with small teaching groups, taking entrants with the best A levels.

Little surprise, then, that all the "old" universities come out on top, the ex-polytechnics below, and Derby University, which was a college of higher education, on the bottom. They have been measured by the ruler of Oxbridge, and come up short.

If you had chosen different criteria, and introduced such factors as the number of vocationally related

courses, part-time students and mature-age entrants, the flexibility of entry requirements, evening and weekend teaching, and so on, then you would have produced a very different result.

Your ranking and your leader reflect the procrustean thinking which has damaged Britain's education system for too long. There is no simple scale of excellence: excellence is defined as fitness for purpose. Universities, now more than ever, cater for different markets, and satisfy different needs; needs which are not all met on the banks of the Cam or the Isis.

Your leader is right to say that league tables of institutions are anathema. This is because students should choose a university on the basis of the course which best fits their objectives. That course may be in any institution, at any level, and of any type. Wherever it is, the universities' stringent quality controls ensure that the course will be as suited to its purpose as any other course, anywhere else. International experience confirms this.

To every complex question there is a simple answer. You have provided such an answer, and we object to it — mainly in the interests of our prospective students and their parents who may be misled by it.

Yours faithfully,

T. U. BURGNER (Secretary),

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and

Principals of the Universities

of the United Kingdom

ROGER BROWN (Chief Executive),

Committee of Directors

of Polytechnics,

29 Tavistock Square, WC1,

October 15.

From Lieutenant Colonel Peter

Robinson

Sir, Your universities guide was published too late to be of much use to many young people applying for entry in 1993. University application forms including Oxford or Cambridge as a choice must reach UCCA by October 15.

The late appearance of the guide is all the more disappointing because it contained a good deal of useful information. Please try to publish it earlier next year.

Yours faithfully,

PETER ROBINSON,

The Georgians,

High Street,

Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

October 12.

## Unit fines in court

From the Chairman of the Criminal Law Committee of the Justices' Clerks' Society

Sir, As adviser to one of the courts where pilot schemes for unit fines originated, and where the method has operated successfully and within good operational timescales for over four years, I must counter the impression contained in Michael Burdett's letter (October 14) and other recent reports. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with the unit method. Indeed, it has enjoyed widespread support and some quite favourable press coverage (including in *The Times*) when first launched experimentally in 1988.

The new £100 top limit creates a difficulty which the pilot projects did not face, but this can be accommodated if courts set appropriate allowances against income. This may mean looking at bigger allowances for higher earners.

The media regularly used to criticise small fines on wealthy individuals as meaningless. The unit fine corrects that situation. The democratic decision to gear fines to means enjoyed multi-party support in both Houses of Parliament. It cannot be for courts to countermand this.

Contrary to the impression given by some reports, there are very many people in the criminal justice system who believe that the Act as a whole represents a substantial shift forwards in thinking about punishments.

Yours sincerely,

BRYAN GIBSON,

Clerk to the Justices,

North West Hampshire

Magistrates' Courts,

Court House, London Road,

Basingstoke, Hampshire.

From Mr W. A. Willink

Sir, Plum stones surely do not pick only husbands and/or careers. A cousin passed on to us this possibly Victorian search for a wife: Duchess stately, Typist pert, College graduate, Red-haired flirt, Social worker, Landlady, Gymnast hearty, Off-plucked fruit.

Yours faithfully,

BILL WILLINK,

Dalton House,

Burton-in-Kendal, Cumbria.

From Mr F. B. Whittle

Sir, The addresses of your 12 readers who responded on October 10 to Mr F. J. Stevenson's letter remind me of what is daily apparent to your readers: that *The Times* is a fine regional newspaper. Although this will surely not surprise your restaurant critic, I wonder what will be the reaction of your circulation manager?

Yours faithfully,

F. B. WHITTLE,

94 Albert Road West,

Heaton, Bolton, Lancashire.

## A mixed welcome for new 'Times'

From Mr Alex J. Nelson

Sir, Long live "The Times Today"! A very useful idea which will stop the piles of partially read papers accumulating in the kitchen before I decide that I have not, after all, the time for a complete perusal of every edition. My wife will be delighted, and I won't miss out on the Thunderer's treasures.

Yours sincerely,

ALEX NELSON,

26 Park Terrace, Burnopfield,

Newcastle upon Tyne.

October 12.

From Dom Alberic Stacpoole

Sir, Your editorial of October 12, "The start of new Times", aptly quotes the English divine, Richard Hooker (as relayed to us by Dr Johnson): "Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

Perhaps more apposite might have been the judgment of the Venerable John Henry Newman: "To live is to change. To be perfect is to have changed often." To that we might add Churchill's reported pungency: "Any fool can be consistent!"

Yours faithfully,

A. J. STACPOOLE,

St Chad's Kirkcubynside, York.

From Mr Renton Hudson

Sir, Oh dear, oh dear! Why do editors fail to consider the practical problems of reading a newspaper? Either the back page carries news, so that the continuation of the front-page articles can be finished by a flick of the wrist, or all the items on the front page must be complete with no carry-overs. Readers do not want to continually open and close a full-size newspaper.

One thing depresses me. Your editorial promises yet more space to arts writers, when what is needed is more coverage of science and technology. There is an urgent need to disseminate information on these subjects to a wider audience.

Yours faithfully,

RENTON HUDSON,

56 Brookfield Gardens,

Ryde, Isle of Wight.

From Mr John R. Bayley

Sir, May I congratulate you on satisfying a long-felt need with your back page digest of news for busy readers. Please will you now turn your attention to the need to preserve Radio 4 (the "radio" *Times*) on long wave.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. BAYLEY,

The Old Farmhouse,

Sandford Orcas, Sherborne, Dorset.

From Mr John Foster

Sir, Your new design provides some improvements. The main paper is a better "read" and the news summary at the back is a big time-saver.

But it is a mistake to sandwich the day's radio and TV programmes between the last two pages of Sport.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN FOSTER,

263 Chislehurst Road,

Pens Wood, Orpington, Kent.

From Mr Paul Chamberlain

Sir, Was I the only person who used to take the Business and Sport section to work and leave the television listings at home for my wife and child? Your new arrangement is already proving unpopular in this household.

Yours faithfully,

P. CHAMBERLAIN,

10 Bramble Field, Purdis Farm,

Warren Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk.

From Mr David Watt

Sir, You say in your leader that when the Personal column was evicted from its pole position 25 years ago it was "pushed into the paper's inner darkness". No, Sir, it was not. It was pushed into the outer darkness, and withered and died. I have never since read any light-hearted article by a regular "columnist" which has given me as much pleasure.

From the point of view of your predecessor as editor it must have had one great advantage — it was written entirely by a volunteer, unpaid force — your readers — who, indeed, paid you to have their work printed.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID WATT,

40 Brookfield,

5 Highgate West Hill, N6.

From Mr D. A. Howell

Sir, The new version of *The Times* contains many improvements; but why is it still necessary, with all the increased coverage to which you draw attention, to produce it with free-ranging single sheets?

Yours faithfully,

D. A. HOWELL,

9 Battledown Road, NS.

From Mr David Benge

Sir, So now we have the new format *Times*. It's a bit like going into Sainsbury's and finding they've moved the marmalade.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BENGE,

64 Melford Road, E6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.







## OBITUARY

Baron Franks, OM, GCMG, KCB, KCVO, CBE, PC, ambassador, academic and chairman of the Franks Committee which investigated the causes of the Falklands war, died at his home in Oxford on October 15, aged 87. He was born in Bristol on February 16, 1905.

A Whitehall civil servant not known for being lavish with praise said of Oliver Shewell Franks that he had "an alpha treble-plus mind." The judgment was just, but it was also insufficient. The name of Franks became linked with absolute integrity. Whenever a post of major responsibility came up, be it the editorship of *The Times*, the chancellorship of Oxford University or the BBC, then the name of Oliver Franks would be canvassed.

Surprisingly Franks was 77 before he accepted the post that was to give him most public prominence: the chairmanship of the inquiry into the Falklands war. Sir Robert Armstrong, as he then was, travelled to Oxford to make sure the Franks's faculties were as sharp as ever. He needed little persuading. Franks, steeped in years of public service with most of them close to the summit, accepted the job. In the summer of 1982 his committee was dosed with the evidence for six hours a day and Franks confessed that he used Braudel on the eastern Mediterranean as relaxing evening reading. After the witnesses had been called the report, which generally exonerated the government from blame in its reaction to Argentinian aggression, was delivered in mid-January 1983.

Perhaps Oliver Franks would have preferred to remain at Oxford: he always claimed that academia was his natural habitat. If so he was not going to say. He had, after all, long experience as a diplomat. He was an outstanding public servant, at different times British Ambassador in Washington, chairman of Lloyds Bank, the head of two Oxford colleges, professor of moral philosophy and, at the end of the second world war, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Supply.

Any one of these positions, each of them requiring different gifts, would have been an achievement for most people. Franks conquered all of them, and served with distinction in them, because of an exceptional combination of that first-class intellect, administrative ability and a sense of discre-

tion and balance in handling delicate public issues. Those who did know him well found him an austere, even aloof, man. Jokes circulated around Oxford to the effect that once the ice was broken there was much cold water to be found below. But he nonetheless had a considerable capacity for human relations when he relaxed.

He began his career in the academic world, and it was to Oxford that he always liked to return, to the informal give and take of college life. But it was clear from early on that academic life alone could never be enough for him, and that led him to venture out into the world of public and international affairs.

His time in Washington as ambassador from 1948 to 1952 was perhaps the peak of his career. If, though, the Falklands assignment was to bring him more fame. Those were the difficult years after the end of the war, and he established a particularly close relationship with Dean Acheson, the secretary of state, which helped to lay the foundations of the postwar period. But he later made a distinctive contribution, as chairman of Lloyds Bank, to the City.

Franks was born of Nonconformist stock. His father, the Rev R. S. Franks, was for many years principal of the Western Theological College at Bristol. His family also had close associations with the Society of Friends, and these links were further strengthened by his marriage in 1931 to Barbara Tanner, whose father was a well-known Quaker in the business circles of the West Country.

After receiving his early education at Bristol Grammar School, Franks entered The Queen's College, Oxford, in 1923 as an Open Scholar in Classics. There his outstanding qualities soon established him as the leading undergraduate of his time. Apart from his academic successes — his distinguished Firsts in Mods and Greats, and later the John Locke Scholarship in philosophy — he participated fully in the general life of the college. He rowed for the college, and — though a teetotaler — he was elected to the select membership of the Eagle Club, which was dedicated to the pleasures of good food and wine.

After taking his Schools, Franks was elected to a fellowship and the preceptorship in philosophy at Queen's in 1927. After a year on the Continent, he began teaching in 1928 both for Lit. Hum. and PPE. His philosophical interests lay rather in the moderns than in the ancients,



and after a time he stopped teaching and Aristotle. His lectures drew huge audiences by reason of their clarity and orderliness of presentation; while his tutorials provided a considerable stimulus to the undergraduates, especially the able ones.

In spite of his academic distinction it is nevertheless doubtful whether Franks's real interests were primarily academic. It soon became clear that he was fascinated by the arts of administration and planning, that he loved to apply the analytic processes of philosophy to the problems of practical affairs. One of his earliest exercises of this kind was to conduct an inquiry into all the possible needs of the college, immediate and remote, and to assign to each its appropriate degree of priority. Another congenial task was the reorganization of philosophy teaching at Chicago, where he spent a term in 1935 as visiting professor.

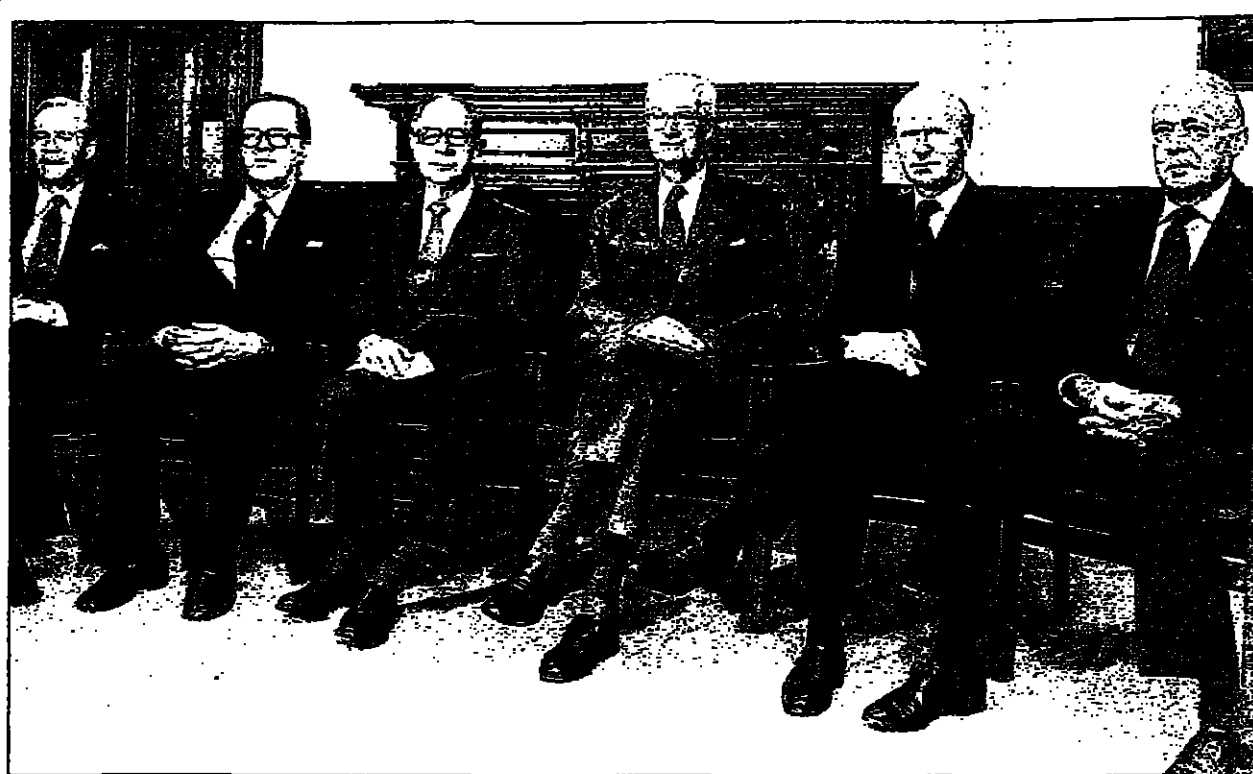
Franks had always made it

clear that when he had completed 10 years as a don he would seek the first suitable post elsewhere. In 1937 he applied for the vacant chair of moral philosophy at Glasgow, and was successful.

But his active tenure of the chair was to be short. On the outbreak of war he joined the Ministry of Supply as a temporary civil servant and entered upon one of the most spectacular periods of his career.

His exceptional administrative talents now found their full scope. His progress was meteoric and he finished up in 1945-46 as permanent secretary to the Ministry of Supply and Aircraft Production. The secret of his success, apart from his breadth of vision and his incisive intellect, was twofold. First, he knew how to delegate and so reserve his energies for the major problems of policy. Secondly, when he had made the best decision that he could, he did not worry about it afterwards. This enabled him to bear the strain of his responsibilities with a cer-

## LORD FRANKS



The Franks Committee, from left, Sir Patrick Nairne, Mr Merlyn Rees, MP, Lord Lever, Lord Franks, Lord Barber and Lord Watkinson

tain serenity, even during the worst days of the bombing. The award of a knighthood in 1946 was a recognition of his contribution to the war effort.

On retiring from the Civil Service, Franks was offered various posts of national, even international, importance. But it was no surprise to those who knew his love of Oxford that he chose instead to accept the vacant provostship of Queen's. This appointment gave him great happiness, but did not prevent him from accepting Government demands for his services. During 1947 he was absent for a prolonged period as chief British delegate to the Paris Conference on Marshall Aid, where he received the irreverent nickname of "No Lolly Ollie". Then, in 1948, he announced that he was obliged to resign the provostship to become ambassador to the United States.

When Franks arrived in Washington at the end of May, 1948, the tide was running in his favour and he was the man to take it at the flood. It was as an economic expert that he was welcomed to the United States, as one who knew, to quote *The New York Times* when he landed, "as possibly no other man in Europe the aims, possibilities, and attendant national responsibilities of the Marshall European recovery programme". But he proved himself to be much more than that — "a fine diplomat", Truman called him.

Ernest Bevin, despite the very considerable difference in educational background, trusted Franks and listened to his advice. So did Sir Stafford Cripps. Truman and Acheson were well aware of this, and it made him the more valuable to them, at the same time strengthening his own hand.

His task was made easier by the extraordinary understanding that grew up between Acheson and Bevin. But his own contribution to the consolidation of that understanding was important.

In his memoirs Acheson mentions an unorthodox proposal he put to Franks "on an experimental basis I suggested that we talk regularly and in complete confidence about any international problems we saw arising". They met at the cocktail hour, unbeknown to their superiors in Whitehall and the White House. The experiment ran for four years. On many Sundays Franks drove his own small car to Acheson's country house in Maryland, unseen by journalists and unsuspected by Congressmen. The four-and-a-half years of his mission now appear to have been the golden years of Anglo-American cooperation. Understanding was probably deeper and serious disagreements fewer than during the war. Two great crises — the Berlin blockade

and the Korean war — were met and surmounted in unity. The North Atlantic Treaty was drafted and the foundations of a European defence system were laid.

Franks's most valuable quality through those years was his lucidity. He had an extraordinary ability for clarifying complicated issues. More than once in his memoirs Truman refers to this quality: "Sir Oliver Franks, as he had done in previous meetings, proceeded to pull the threads of the conversation together... Sir Oliver Franks... skillfully summarised the discussion we had." These remarks were typical of Truman's justified admiration.

Wise as he did not try to outstay the Truman Administration. His experience with Dulles, who had been in the State Department as an adviser for much of his time, had not given him any great confidence in the new secretary of state as a colleague. And he knew that the Republicans would find it hard to trust anyone who had been so close to Acheson. A new ambassador would have a better chance than he could have.

On his return it was known that he wished to be free of executive work for at least a year. Yet his qualities were so admired that in spite of this he was offered more than one important appointment, one being the editorship of *The Times*. In March, 1953, he was elected a director of Lloyds Bank and in June a deputy chairman. In November 1954 he succeeded Lord Balfour of Burleigh as chairman.

As chairman for eight years Franks brought a new and welcome dynamism to the City. His ability and determination to reason matters out on their merits, within the framework of tradition, rather than accept them alone, was beneficial if at times a little startling to the City. His annual statements to shareholders and his much sought-after addresses to international gatherings, revealed and added to his international stature. He was a member of the Radcliffe Committee which inquired into the working of the monetary system and later as chairman of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers from 1960 to 1962, presented the banks' evidence, cogently and comprehensively, to the Jenkins Committee on Company Law Amendment. He had the capacity to absorb a situation and reduce it to its extreme simplicities, without getting involved in details.

During those years he lived in Oxford and occasionally took part in seminars. Such time as he could spare from the City was mainly devoted to acting as chairman of the

board of governors of the United Oxford Hospitals (from 1958 to 1964). During that time he initiated a scheme of expansion and reform which took his successors more than a decade to put into effect.

In 1962, on giving up the chairmanship of Lloyds Bank, he became provost of Worcester College, where he remained until 1976. That same year he was made a life peer, and he subsequently took the Liberal Whip in the House of Lords.

Franks's predecessor at Worcester, J. C. Masterman, had presided over a period in which the college had established itself at the centre of university life and not just one with a good sporting record. Franks was able to consolidate that achievement. Masterman had been a rather remote figure, often tending to favour undergraduates from the better schools and the better sort of background. Like Franks he had been a civil servant in his time. But Franks's views were more liberal and he had his own characteristic way of interesting undergraduates and, to the surprise of some of the fellows, passed with flying colours the severest of all tests for a head of house, that of gaining the affection and regard of old members. He fitted easily and naturally into college life, with its equality in the common room and democracy on the governing body.

His most considerable service to the university was his chairmanship of the commission of inquiry into its working (from 1964 to 1966). Oxford was under some pressure to examine itself, and Franks's authority and reputation made him a good choice as chairman. He insisted that the commission should do as much of its work as possible in public, and many of the hearings attracted big audiences. The final report contained a wide range of recommendations which had considerable influence on the university; among them, proposals for more undergraduates and postgraduate students, for a higher proportion of women, for more emphasis on applied sciences and technology, for a reform of the administration, and for changes in the system of admissions.

In spite of his activities in Oxford Franks continued to play a part in various bodies elsewhere, such as the Wellcome Trust, the Rhodes Trust and the Rockefeller Foundation. From 1962 to 1964 he was a member of the National Economic Development Council. In 1965 he was elected chancellor of the University of East Anglia.

In 1971 he was called on by Edward Heath, then prime minister, to be chairman of a departmental committee to look into the issue of official

secrets. This issue had come to the fore as a result of the unsuccessful attempt by the Crown to prosecute the *Sunday Telegraph* under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911. The intention was to devise a more sophisticated secrecy statute which would be narrower in scope, but surer in action.

The Franks committee made proposals for a new Official Information Act which would aim to protect genuinely sensitive material related to such areas as defence and international security, foreign relations and currency. But because of differences at Westminster over the proper extent of liberalization it did not become law.

Franks returned to the issue at a Civil Service College seminar in 1978, when he suggested a House of Commons select committee on open government as being a constitutionally sound method of reconciling the conflicting impulses of confidentiality and publicity. But it was not acted upon.

In July, 1982, when Franks was already 77, he was called on to take on one of the most sensitive, and public, tasks of his career: the chairmanship of the committee of Privy Counsellors to review the background of the Falklands dispute. The issue was, of course, one of great political importance, because of the effect that any severe criticism of the Government's actions in the period leading up to the Argentine invasion would have had. In the event the committee formally exonerated the Thatcher administration, saying that it could not have foreseen or prevented the invasion, and concluding that "we would not be justified in attaching any criticism or blame" to the Government for the Argentine junta's act of aggression. But at the same time the narrative section of the report, based on a wealth of diplomatic and intelligence documents, produced abundant material for accusations of ministerial and official neglect.

The upshot, presumably foreseen by Franks, was that the Government was able to make the most of the exoneration, and that, though there were accusations of a cover-up, with Mr Callaghan talking of "a bucket of whitewash", the issue of possible Government failings disappeared from public discussion.

Franks was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1960, and was awarded the OM in 1977. He was an honorary fellow of Queen's, Worcester and Wolfson Colleges and of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, as well as of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. He also had honorary degrees from Oxford and other universities.

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**RESEARCHER** seeks Oxford Graduate and Oxf. who have been approached to join leading firm for research. Please reply to Box No 4502.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WANTED** to trace a police officer who visited the White House on Oct 10th and who worked on for British Forces. Reply to Box No 4512.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS**  
Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and rescue more families in urgent need of support. Help us face the problems of homelessness by donating Church Housing Trust as a beneficiary in your Will. Details from **CHURCH HOUSING TRUST** 78-78 West Hampstead Broadway London NW6 7ET

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## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

## AGNATE

(b) A kinsman by the father's side; a collateral descendant by male links from the same male ancestor, from the Latin *agnatus*, added by birth, from the past participle of *agnoscere* to be born.

## VERBICULATE

(c) To speak, talk, chat, from the Latin *verbum* a word + *agere* to conduct or carry on: "The patient repeats in a verbiageous monotone the sentence, 'Please, do give me the keys'."

## PENETRALLA

(a) The innermost parts of a building, especially a temple, the sanctuary or inner shrine.

## PALTR

(b) To shift, shuffle, equivocate, from the Latin *paltr*, a trick, a sleight, no corresponding word is known in any other language, its form is alternative in — *like fanter, totter, waver*, but no suitable primitive root is known: *Macbeth*: "Be that slithering fiend no more beller'd, / That paltr'st us in a double sense, / That keep'st the word of promise to our eyes, / And break'st it to our hope."

## Battle of Camperdown

Admiralty Office, Oct. 16.  
Captain Fairfax, of the Venerable, arrived early this morning with dispatches from Adam Duncan, Esq. Admiral of the Blue, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships employed in the North Sea, to Evan Nepean Esq. Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following are copies:  
Venerable, at Sea, 13th Oct.  
off the Coast of Holland

SIR,  
Be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, judging it of consequence their Lordships should have as early information as possible of the defeat of the Dutch Fleet under the command of Admiral De Winter, I dispatched the Rose cutter at three p.m. on the 12th (11th) instant, with a short letter to you immediately after the action was ended. I have now further to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that in the night of the 10th instant, I placed my

## ON THIS DAY

October 17 1797



The victory of Admiral Duncan (1731-1804) was of signal importance in the war against the French-Dutch alliance. The fleets were of equal strength making the battle bloody and costly in lives.

squadron in such situation as to prevent the enemy from returning to the Texel without my falling in with them. At nine o'clock in the morning of the 11th I got sight of Captain Trollope's squadron, with signals flying for an enemy to leeward; I immediately bore up, and made the signal for a general chase, and soon got sight of them, forming in a line on the larboard tack to receive us, the wind at N.W. As we approached near I made the signal for the squadron to shorten sail, in order to connect them;

soon after I saw the land between Camperdown and Egmont, about 9 miles to leeward of the Enemy, and finding there was no time to be left in making the attack, I made the signal to bear up, break the Enemy's line, and engage them to leeward, each ship her opponent, by which I got between them and the land. Vice Admiral Onslow, in the Monarch, bore down on the Enemy's rear in the most gallant manner, his Division following his example, and the action commenced about 40 minutes past 12 o'clock. The Venerable soon got through the Enemy's line, and I began a close action, with my Division on their Van, which lasted near two hours and a half, when I observed all the masts of the Dutch Admiral's ship to go by the board; she was, however, defended for some time in a most gallant manner; but being overpowered by numbers, her Colours were struck...  
I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient humble servant  
Evan Nepean, Esq. Adam Duncan.



## NEWS

## Battered Major on the offensive

John Major launched an offensive to restore government credibility last night, using a post-summit press conference to put his personal mark on yesterday's base rate cut and to foreshadow new help for the 30,000 miners thrown out of work by pit closures. Pages 1, 6, 7

The 1 per cent cut in base rate to 8 per cent will reduce mortgage rates to 9.25 per cent, cutting £51 a month off a £50,000 endowment mortgage. Pages 1, 2, 19

## EC 'confidence restored' by summit

Mr Major said the summit had restored confidence in the EC and would make it more open to the needs of citizens. "There will be no inner core, no fast track and slow track." Pages 1, 8

## Gold smuggler

Robert Neil, who led a smuggling racket which brought gold worth £35 million into Britain and made millions out of VAT fraud, was convicted in London yesterday. Page 3

## Uranium seized

Smuggled weapons-grade uranium from the former communist bloc has been seized by German police near Munich. Page 11

## Old guard departs

More than half of China's ruling politburo will resign during this week's Communist party congress in Peking. Page 12

## Britons murdered

Two British backpackers have been murdered in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Foreign Office confirmed yesterday. Page 3

## Lord Franks dies

Lord Franks, philosopher, diplomat, banker and royal adviser, has died at his home in Oxford, aged 87. Pages 4, 15, 17

## Insult begets injury

A man who sued a council for £10,000 for injuries he said were caused by tripping on a broken kerbstone, was in fact a peeping tom who fell from a window at a woman in bed. Page 3

## Bush looks beaten

Victory for Bill Clinton seems increasingly likely after Thursday's lacklustre performance by President Bush in the second presidential debate, when he not only failed to draw blood but seemed to lack much interest in doing so. Page 10

## University suicides

Oxford University has launched an enquiry into suicide among its students, following another case this week. Page 5

## Yards apart after 3,000 miles

Two yachts are locked in a battle for the lead in the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race. Paul Jaffes' crew on InterSpray and Richard Tudor's team on British Steel II are within shouting distance of each other, 3,000 miles into the first leg from the Solent to Rio de Janeiro.



The times they are a-passin': Bob Dylan and George Harrison rehearse for Dylan's 30th anniversary concert in New York tonight

## SPORT

**Cricket:** Zimbabwe should tomorrow be celebrating an historic sporting occasion — its inaugural Test match — and further recognition as an emerging nation, but the cricket takes place against a tragic backdrop. Page 31

**Rugby:** England and Canada will know more about their reserve strength after this afternoon's meeting in the unaccustomed environs of Wembley stadium. Page 31

## BUSINESS

**Bid counter:** Ranks Hovis McDougall has countered the hostile £780 million bid from Hanson with a plan to break the business up into three companies. Page 19

**Clarks:** Directors of the west-country shoe manufacturer and retailer were accused of making their company "the laughing stock of the shoe trade" at a stormy meeting in Glastonbury, Somerset, yesterday. Page 19

## ARTS

## Franky, my dear

Request noted: 'Remind me not to have an affair with Madonna,' notes David Sinclair, reviewing Madonna's new album, *Erotica*. 'An f-word here, a bit of moaning and groaning there, and that's about it.' So much for hype. Page 14

**Radio crimes:** As for the West End's brand new musical spectacular, *Radio Times*, Benedict Nightingale writes: 'How much better if its creators had given us a score or so of Noel Gay's numbers, instead of concocting what is clearly beyond their wit, namely a good story.' Page 14

**Smart art:** Joe Joseph ponders the art of Jeff Koons and wonders if this is just a joke. *Saturday Review* How very Irish: Three Russian gypsies, finding life hard in the mother country, have escaped to happiness, fulfillment and success. Where else but in Ireland, where else? Page 14

## OPINION

## CHARLES BREMNER

'In one of many similar laments, *L'Evenement du Jeudi* magazine wondered who was the modern modernist intellectual. The answer was not a thinker at all but Dr Bernard Kouchner, the French minister of health and humanitarian action and darling of the media. The intellectual classes have abandoned their time-honoured role of stirring things up.' Page 14

## DANIEL JOHNSON

'A love of literature is better nurtured by devouring whole books than by grazing on gobblets. Yet anthologies are becoming the cuckoo in the nests of British publishers, jostling for precious space on the bookshelves.' Page 14

## EDWARD NORMAN

The general Synod is about to release ecclesiastical appointments from political control, thus further unravelling the link between church and state. Page 14

## OPINION

## Euro therapy

'With Mr Major distracted by the uproar over pit closures and no agreed panacea for the EC's troubles in sight, Birmingham could amount to little more than group therapy.' Page 15

## Full astern

'Now Mr Major appears to have returned to the bad old ways. Yesterday Douglas Hurd said he knew there was a problem with the coal industry but did not know what the solution would be. He was never consulted about the pit closures, nor were many of his cabinet colleagues.' Page 15

## Great and good

'In the shadow of his death, Lord Franks seems the last representative of an endangered English species: the donnish, high-mandarin public administrator. The term the Great and the Good was invented for people like him.' Page 15

## TV LISTINGS

The complete guide to this week-end's television, plus Lynne Truss on the week that was. Weekend Times, Pages 20, 21

## SATURDAY REVIEW

## Maxwell lives

Despite being a publicity seeker when he was alive, Robert Maxwell made even more headlines after he died. Roy Greenslade on a year in the death of Maxwell

## Houston to Hollywood

The squeaky-clean singer can sing and dance, but can she act? The perfectly-packaged Whitney Houston talks to Alan Jackson

## Diary of anybody

Craig Brown on what to do with a dull diary: call it someone else's

## WEEKEND TIMES

## John Major writes...

The prime minister, who must lately have felt like a football, writes exclusively about boyhood heroes he watched at Chelsea

## THOMPSON

In some Republican circles you can hear the following argument: Even if Bill Clinton wins, he'll blow it the same way Jimmy Carter did and the Republicans will sweep back to power in 1996. Don't bet the ranch on it — *Wall Street Journal*

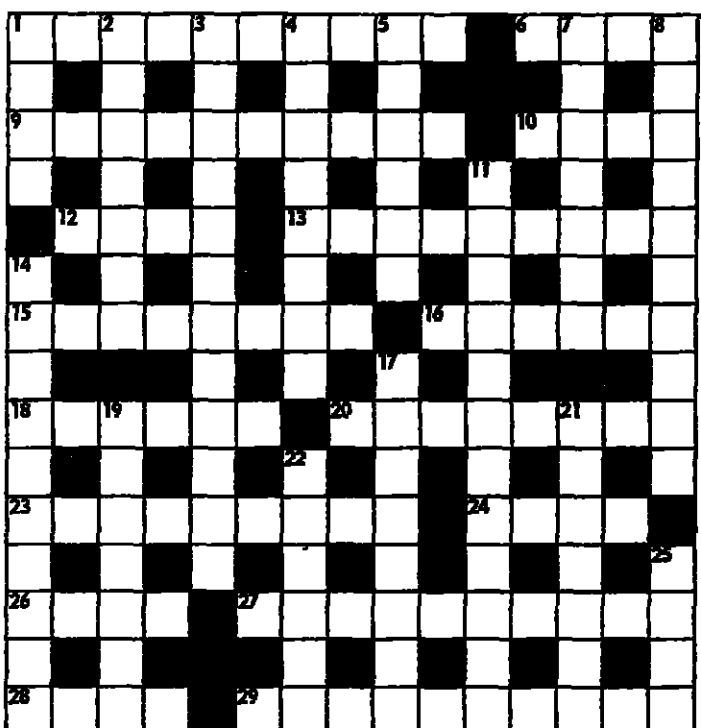
If the United States will not come to Bosnia's defence, then it must at least allow Bosnia to defend itself. End the arms embargo — *LA Times*

'I'm very sad because there was a time within my own writing life when people in senior positions of power, to a man and a woman, were men and women of honour. That time is clearly past'

David Yallop

Former *EastEnders* scriptwriter after winning a breach of contract case against the BBC

## TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 19,052



- ACROSS**
- New chairs duly created — in fluid mechanics (10).
  - He wrote "The Continental Doctor" (4).
  - Paid boxer putting forward a plan? (10).
  - Article about a field of study (4).
  - Smooth character on the staff (4).
  - She joins people opposing a single tax — a moderate reformer (9).
  - Fat pig accommodated in this old port (8).
  - Son all out to gain honour in the ski-race (6).
  - Quick-witted advocate of free trade (6).
  - Man with a leaning towards the Suarcs? (8).
  - Poets in the Canaries, perhaps? (9).
  - Embossed writing over which we may be ecstatic (4).
  - A group of atoms first discovered in a Scottish island (4).
  - It may be served in Church law, say, before a dance (6-4).
  - Language spoken in Samuel Butler's "Erewhon" (4).
- DOWN**
- Musky western cars designed for our salad days? (10).
  - Writer finds hard work initially exhilarating (4).
  - Drawer where an actor keeps old parts? (7).
  - Talk to one absent from a job about his line (12).
  - Important event, a Scottish town accepting foreign currency (8).
  - Giving a signal when waiting for a bus, say (6).
  - A competitor possessing the right appearance (11).
  - Boyout upheld by Birkenhead iron-worker (10).
  - Music-loving Greek character left off instrument (12).
  - Referendum throws out best policies? Not so (10).
  - Fudge made by acting nurse in quarters (8).
  - Runs pub familiar to Savoyards? (7).
  - Note received in island recently cut off (7).
  - Uprising of boy in a northern state (6).
  - A former railway charity (4).

**Solution to Puzzle No 19,051**

GRAYFISH GORSON  
A L T U  
E U T H A N A S I A V E R B  
E I N H R I I A  
P E P P E R C O R N E T  
E A U H W R O  
R E S P R A Y M A G A B R E  
T S  
A D O G E T H A I A M I  
G I M C R A C K S T A K E S  
E E A I I S I  
M A I L G R A N D C H I L D  
N O U G E R E  
S T A T U S A S C E N D E R

**Solution to Puzzle No 19,046**

W E A K L Y J U M P T O I T  
A S U F A E R I  
T A P S T E R B O U Q U I T  
E I E I T T N L  
R A R I N G T O G O C A P E  
D I E H O R  
O M N I B U S T H U N D E R  
W E E K E A L  
N O V E L T Y D I O T H Y  
T I L U T H M  
C A S H P A U L R E V E R E  
L I M C O G R A S  
O U T B A C K O D D M E N T  
T O I E M A A E  
H E R A L D R Y O Y S T E R

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Name/Address

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For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
North-Surrey, Sussex	702
Doncaster & H&W	703
Derby & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Northants, Leics & Essex	707
Northfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Guernsey & Jersey	715
N.W. England	716
W. & S. Wales & Wales	717
N.E. England	718
Cardiff & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Greenwich & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
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National motorways	737
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North-west England	742
North-east England	743
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The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R Holmes, Keels Croft, Lynton, Devon; R J Hedges, Harnleigh Green, Harnham Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire; A E Brooks, Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield, W. Taylor, Cainberry Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire; M Dearden, Southview, Three Elm Lane, Tonbridge, Kent.

## WEATHER

Outbreaks of rain over northern Scotland, falling as snow on high ground, will spread south reaching Northern Ireland and northern England during the afternoon. Wales and the rest of England will start dry with sunny intervals but cloud and outbreaks of rain will arrive later. The South-East and the South-West will enjoy the best of any sunshine but will cloud over later. All parts will be cold. Outlook: cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

## ABROAD

MIDWINTER: t-thunder; d-dizzle; lg-long; s-snow; M-mist; an-moon; f-fog; C-cloud; r-rain

	C	F	W	M	S
Algeria	20	68	f	21	70
Angola	20	68	f	21	70
Argentina	20	68	f	21	70
Australia	20	68	f	21	70
Austria	20	68	f	21	70
Bahamas	20	68	f	21	70
Bahrain	20	68	f	21	70
Bangladesh	20	68	f	21	70
Barbados	20	68	f	21	70
Belgium	20	68	f	21	70
Belize	20	68	f	21	70
Bermuda	20	68	f	21	70
Bhutan	20	68	f	21	70
Bolivia	20	68	f	21	70
Bosnia	20	68	f	21	70
Brazil	20	68	f	21	70
Bulgaria	20	68	f	21	70
Burkina Faso	20	68	f	21	70
Burundi	20	68	f	21	70
Cambodia	20	68	f	21	70
Cameroon	20	68	f	21	70
Canada	20	68	f	21	70
Cape Verde	20	68	f	21	70
Cayman Is.	20	68	f	21	70
Chad	20	68	f	21	70
Chile	20	68	f	21	70
China	20	68	f	21	70
Cote d'Ivoire	20	68	f	21	70
Croatia	20	68	f	21	70
Cuba	20	68	f	21	70
Cyprus	20	68	f	21	70
Czech Rep.	20	68	f	21	70
Dominican Rep.	20	68	f	21	70
Dominica	20	68	f	21	70
DRC	20	68	f	21	70
Ecuador	20	68	f	21	70
Egypt	20	68	f	21	70
El Salvador	20	68	f	21	70
Equatorial Guinea	20	68	f	21	70
Eritrea	20	68	f	21	70
Estonia	20	68	f	21	70
Ethiopia	20	68	f	21	70
Fiji	20	68	f	21	70
Finland	20	68	f	21	70
France	20	68	f	21	70
Gabon	20	68	f	21	70
Gambia	20	68	f	21	70
Germany	20	68	f	21	70
Ghana	20	68	f	21	70
Greece	20	68	f	21	70
Guatemala	20	68	f	21	70
Guinea	20	68	f	21	70
Guinea-Bissau	20	68	f	21	70
Haiti	20	68	f	21	70
Honduras	20	68	f	21	70
Hungary	20	68	f	21	70
Iceland	20	68	f	21	70
India	20	68	f	21	70
Indonesia	20	68	f	21	70
Ireland	20	68	f	21	70
Israel	20	68	f	21	70
Italy	20	68	f	21	70
Jamaica	20	68	f	21	70
Japan	20	68	f	21	70
Jordan	20	68	f	21	70
Kazakhstan	20	68	f	21	70
Kenya	20	68	f	21	70
Korea	20	68	f	21	70
Kuwait	20	68	f	21	70
Laos	20	68	f	21	70
Latvia	20	68	f	21	70
Lebanon	20	68	f	21	70
Lesotho	20	68	f	21	70
Liberia	20	68	f	21	70
Libya	20	68	f	21	70
Lithuania	20	68	f	21	70
Luxembourg	20	68	f	21	70
Macao	20	68	f	21	70
Madagascar	20	68	f	21	70
Mali	20	68	f	21	70
Malta	20	68	f	21	70
Mauritania	20	68	f	21	70
Mauritius	20	68	f	21	70
Mexico	20	68	f	21	70
Moldova	20	68	f	21	70
Mongolia	20	68	f	21	70
Montenegro	20	68	f	21	70
Morocco	20	68	f	21	70
Mozambique	20	68	f	21	70
Myanmar	20	68	f	21	70
Nicaragua	20	68	f	21	70
Niger	20	68	f	21	70
Nigeria	20	68	f	21	70
North Macedonia	20	68	f	21	70





**BUSINESS 19-30**  
Profile: National Westminster's quiet calculator



**SPORT 31-36**  
Frank Bruno, the failure who became a hero



**RACING 33**  
Pat Eddery's classic star in the making

**WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES**  
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# THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

**WEEKEND MONEY**  
CASH RELATED

More than 70,000 people sought help from Relate last year and many will have financial worries after a divorce  
Page 23

**UP IN SMOKE**  
Smokers could face a 10 per cent rise in their term-assurance premiums following research findings  
Page 26

**MERRY WIDOW**  
The plea "keep cash, send widow" got one reader a welcome payout from Scottish Widows  
Letters, page 28

**FUND SURPLUS**  
Don Hall predicts a flood of submissions on the question of who owns pension fund surpluses  
Page 25

Public borrowing soars to £4bn

## City expresses doubts over base rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BASE rates were cut by one percentage point to 8 per cent, the lowest since June 1988, but welcome for the cut was tempered by doubts that it will not be enough to restore confidence. A sharp worsening of government finances revealed yesterday also soured the City mood.

The pound dipped almost two pence to DM 2.4380 after the Bank of England signalled the rate cut shortly after midday. But it climbed back to DM 2.4480 by the official 4 pm London close, down less than two pence from Thursday.

Despite market expectations that the economy's weakness would force Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to sanction lower interest rates, the cut appeared not to have been fully discounted. Sterling's overnight fall against the dollar continued, leaving it at almost four cents lower at \$1.6625. The trade-weighted index dropped 0.9 to 80.7.

The stock market responded strongly at first to the rate cut, surging briefly by 36.9 points. But sentiment became less bullish during the afternoon. The FT-SE 100 index finished at 2,563.9, up 17.3.

The full-point cut was the second since Britain had to withdraw "temporarily" from the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16. The first was on September 22.

The Treasury had appeared to favour a more cautious approach to interest rate cuts this week, despite a run of bleak figures that showed output falling and unemployment climbing back above 10 per cent. The Bundesbank's

**■ Sterling reacted calmly to the lowest base rates since 1988 but analysts are growing cynical**

decision on Thursday to leave its key lending rates unchanged was also perceived as reducing Mr Lamont's scope for a rate cut.

Mr Lamont said yesterday's cut was wholly consistent with his objective of maintaining downward pressure on inflation. He said Britain now had the lowest official interest rates in the EC and a highly competitive exchange rate.

Sir Michael Angus, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said the cut was "what business has been looking for" to help restore confidence. It was justified by the weakness of the real economy and progress made in lowering inflation.

But Sir Denis Henderson, ICI's chairman, while welcoming the cut, said industry needed "still stronger measures" to help the economy out of its present recession. Richard Brown, policy director of the British Chambers of Commerce, questioned whether the boost to confidence would be enough to turn things round.

Recession was reflected in Treasury figures showing that the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) jumped to £4 billion in September, far in excess of City forecasts. The increase occurred despite receipt of £1.4 billion in privatisation proceeds. For the first six months of the fiscal year, the cumulative deficit has risen to £18.4 billion, more than

£8 billion higher than at the same stage last year. Excluding privatisations, the increase is still bigger. Mr Lamont forecast a PSBR of £28 billion in the Budget, but analysts expect it to reach £40 billion or more, as the costs of rising unemployment grow and tax revenue falls.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said central government spending showed a disturbing annual increase of 17 per cent in September, more than £1 billion higher than expected.

"These awful figures provided a timely reminder of the need to cut back on current expenditure," he said. Robert Lind, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the state of government finances was "appalling" and reflected the condition of the real economy.

The Bank of England underlined its confidence in the counter-inflationary policy that replaced the ERM disciplines by issuing £400 million of long-dated index-linked Treasury stock.

A further cut in base rate is expected only when the Bundesbank signals lower German rates, most likely in December. Economic slowdown in Germany has encouraged expectations by some economists of earlier easing. German retail sales figures showed an annual fall of 5.1 per cent in real terms in August as consumer confidence tumbled. Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, said western Germany was "tending towards stagnation", while eastern Germany would achieve at best half the growth previously forecast for this year.

Stock Market report, page 22



Keeping the peace: a security man stands guard as shareholders arrive for the meeting at Glastonbury

## Clark family rebels compromise

By JON ASHWORTH

DIRECTORS of C&J Clark, the West Country shoe maker and retailer, were accused of making their company "the laughing stock of the shoe trade" at a stormy meeting in Glastonbury, Somerset, yesterday.

Rebel members of the Clark family were seeking the removal of Walter Dickson, chairman, and Jim Power, a non-executive director. In a last-minute compromise, the rebels agreed to adjourn the proceedings until Clark's annual meeting next April. But the board came under heavy fire from many of the 400 shareholders who packed Glastonbury's town hall.

Mr Dickson said that "contradictory tensions" among family members had become irreconcilable. The only way out of the dilemma, he said, was to change the ownership of the business. Clark's is in talks with four investors over

the sale of a majority stake. An independent committee is being formed to determine the best price available for the company and to consider options for shareholders who want to sell their shares.

Mr Dickson promised that no decision about the company's future would be taken without giving shareholders, of whom there are more than 4,000, a chance to vote.

Clark's, one of Britain's biggest private companies, has seen profits fall sharply in recent years. The value of shares has fallen from more than £4 to about 90p.

The board came in for heavy criticism. David Edwards, a shareholder, said the publicity surrounding the family row had been extremely damaging to Clark's. "It is said to see a company with such a wonderful history being dragged down by this fruitless and irrelevant argu-

ment," Mr Edwards accused Lance Clark, a rebel director, of acting irresponsibly and called for his resignation. Mr Clark retorted that he had had no choice. Proposals earlier in the year to allow a Hong Kong investor to take a stake of up to 20 per cent had been viewed with concern. Daniel Clark, also a director, said the rebels' proposals would have been "absolutely disastrous" for the company. "No company can be run under a divided board. The solution must be a change in ownership."

Roger Pedder, one of four rebel directors, dismissed suggestions that he was "a family poodle". The company needed to be pulled up by its bootstraps, he said. "If I don't see that happening, I have a right to object."

Grant Bramwell, a former employee of K Shoes, which Clark's owns, said bad publicity was upsetting staff and destroying Clark's reputation. "This very great group is becoming the laughing stock of the shoe trade."

After the meeting, Mr Dickson said it was "unfortunate" that the Clark's row had gone public, but he was confident that the company could now move forward.



Dickson: under pressure

## RHM counters bid with demerger

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RANKS Hovis McDougall has countered the hostile £780 million bid from Hanson with a plan to break up the business into three different companies whose stock market valuation is expected to be higher than that of the merged group.

Stanley Metcalfe, RHM's chairman, said the proposed demerger, which follows similar moves by other bid-threatened businesses, was first considered when RHM's share price was floundering around 160p this summer. "We would have had to demonstrate to the shareholders and the brokers that they were totally undervaluing RHM."

The shares, which jumped

sharply when Lord Hanson made his approach this month, ended 5p higher at 246p. Analysts put a value of up to £3 a share on the group if it is successfully broken up.

The plan, which is expected to take four to six months to complete, would result in three businesses, flour milling and baking, including the Hovis and Mothers Pride brands; grocery and specialty products, owner of Bisto and Paxo; and cakes, principally the Mr Kipling label.

Mr Metcalfe said RHM's value on the stock market had been affected by uncertainties surrounding the milling and baking business, which is in a

price war. RHM aims to address this with the purchase, agreed in principle before the Hanson bid, of all of Dalgety's bread-making interests for £28 million, including the assumption of £4 million of debt. Dalgety has three bakeries in the South East, where RHM is weakest.

Mr Metcalfe said the demerger would provide greater value to his shareholders than the bid. "Whilst it might be true to say that Lord Hanson has provided a stimulus for these proposals, I would not wish to dent his modesty by overstating that point."

Lord Hanson said he was "disappointed" by the merger

proposals and queried how long they would take and what the costs would be in the event of failure.

Martin Taylor, vice-chairman, denied the RHM board had stolen Hanson's thunder by initiating a breakup before his company could take control and do the same. The aim was to use the RHM food businesses as the basis for a substantial international food division of Hanson, he said. "I don't think we support the idea of breaking the company up into three small parts at a time when the world is less interested in smaller companies and many brokers are no longer reporting on them."

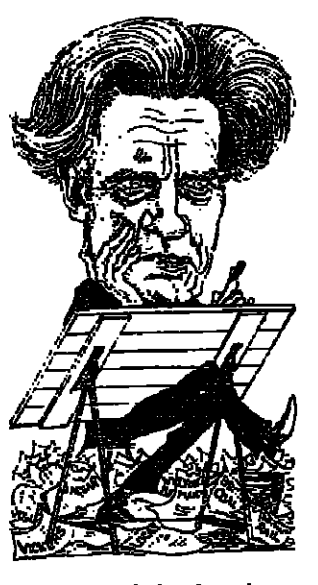
## Heseltine shows Lamontian touch

EIGHT years ago, Roy Lyng, scourge of Scargill and president of the newly born Union of Democratic Mineworkers, was the darling of the Conservative party, the acceptable face of modern trade unionism.

Yesterday, Mr Lyng was 1,000 feet underground at the Silverhill Colliery, dug-in in lonely protest against the government's plans to shed 51 pits and 30,000 miners, dug-in in lonely protest against eight wasted years.

But Mr Lyng can take some comfort. He was not alone in being in the dark. Most of the cabinet had spent the week in a similar condition, presumably attributing newspaper reports that 60 per cent of the coal industry had been axed to yet another campaign of unsubstantiated gossip and rumour.

Only when the prime minister and the president of the



board of trade let them in on their little secret did the cold truth dawn. The sickly glimmer at the end of the tunnel was the pale flame of natural gas. Would the last miner out

of the pit-head baths please turn off the coal industry's light?

The news of coal's demise was handled in a way that suggests that the prime minister has not forgotten his days as a public relations officer. For as every PR executive eventually learns, the first law of the business is always, shoot the messenger.

So, just as the prime minister dispatched Norman Lamont into the valley of foreign exchange dealing desks, Michael Heseltine - ironically, his most loyal supporter, as well as his most feared rival - was chosen (specially?) to bring the dismal tidings to Britain's industrial heartland.

Mr Heseltine's timing was atrocious, almost Lamontian. Not only did the closures coincide with unemployment rising for the 29th month in a row, to more than 2.8 million,

but male unemployment (a curiously old-fashioned measure, but then these are curiously old-fashioned times) hit a level not seen since the thirties.

As for manufacturing output, September's inevitable fall threatened to extend this recession to an unprecedented ten quarters.

The president's political sure-footedness also deserted him. The business community has long grown weary of a chancellor so wedded to the defeat of inflation that Friday's one-point gesture is almost certainly too little, too late.

It could very quickly tire of a trade secretary who - almost two-and-a-half years into recession - repeatedly tells it to go back to the drawing board and examine its cost base.

MATTHEW BOND

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## Bush hopes dashed by fall in US exports

THE Bush administration hopes that exports would boost America's sluggish economy, and improve the president's chances of re-election, were dashed by official figures that showed the biggest fall in exports for five years and a further fall in industrial output.

Industrial output fell 0.2 per cent in August, the third decline in four months, in part reflecting strikes in the motor industry and falling defence industry output. Manufacturing suffered its worst decline since January. In August, industrial production fell 0.4 per cent, a slight upward revision from initial data.

The Commerce Department said the August trade deficit widened sharply to \$9 billion, the biggest shortfall for almost two years, from a July deficit of \$7.28 billion.

Exports dropped by 6.1 per cent in August, with falls registered across a broad range of agricultural and manufactured goods, reflecting weakness in key overseas markets. Imports fell too, but by only 1.3 per cent.

Although allowance has to be made for a possible dampening of trade by Hurricane Andrew in August, many Wall Street economists fear that a widening trade deficit is starting to hold back the domestic economy, instead of providing the lift President Bush had predicted.

In the first eight months, the deficit was running at an annualised rate 17 per cent higher than last year.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Mining disaster

The pit closures decision triggered a national outcry, with charges of industrial vandalism and the gratuitous discard of jobs in the depths of a recession. But some of the charges are false, many are misplaced...

Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow

# RHM wants a bigger slice of cake

STANLEY Metcalfe at Rank Hovis McDougall has come face-to-face with the compelling logic that has already been accepted by his counterparts at BAT Industries, Rascal and ICI, that it is better to turn a profit yourself than leave it in the business for a predator.

The RHM break-up cannot be said to be prompted by the Hanson bid, in that it was clearly in train well before his Lordship swooped on October 5. But the scheme was sparked by the widespread perception that under Mr Metcalfe's leadership, RHM's share price had spiralled down to a point where the company was clearly worth more in another form or with another owner.

It is therefore appropriate that the existing board, including the new finance director, have no declared future with the three demerged companies, which will be run by the line management.

RHM has no significant debt to be assigned to the successors. Some cash will probably go to the weak milling and baking business, which has contributed most to RHM's decline. This would be balanced by debt within the grocery brands and the cake business, both of which would come to the market with enormous "For Sale" signs attached.

Cakes makes less than £20 million of profit and would probably be taken out immediately by one of the big players in food, while various possible buyers have already been sniffing around groceries. RHM has had to go the cumbersome route of a demerger and float

to ensure all proceeds go to shareholders only because of the taxman, who would take a cut of straight trade sales.

Analysts have indicated the demerged businesses could be worth 260p-280p purely on trading grounds eventually — at least four to six months down the line. Over and above this is a premium for control paid by any purchaser, which remains pie in the sky. All this requires some leap of faith by shareholders who rejected 465p from Goodman Fielder Wattle four years ago, given that the Rascal and ICI demergers have proved long drawn out affairs and not without last-minute hitches.

Lord Hanson is offering 220p but will probably increase. RHM shares in the market are 245p. Shareholders without a burning need to cash in at that level might as well sit in for the ride and see what his Lordship does next.

## Attwoods

"GREEN is good" was, until recently, one of the City's favorite maxims. But after Body Shop's fall from grace and the sudden halt in earnings growth from the waste management sector, environment-friendly stocks have lost their lustre. Attwoods has been hit harder than most because of its extraordinary problems last year when only a bungled emergency rights issue rescued it from a credit crunch. Sentiment has not been helped by a series of legal problems in America, one of which resulted in a £3.5 million extraordinary charge being included



Pleasing news from Germany: Ken Foreman, the chairman of Attwoods

in last year's accounts. But the main difficulties stem from the collapse in spot metal prices, which led to an £8 million fall in profits from Mindis, the American metal recycling subsidiary. UK profits are also under pressure. One brighter spot is Germany, where Attwoods' temporary buildings subsidiary is benefiting from the uncertainty surrounding property title in the

eastern regional states. Also on a positive note, the balance sheet now looks under control after the rights issue and a new £200 million banking facility. Gearing has fallen from 92 per cent to 36 per cent.

Taxable profits for the year to end July fell 8 per cent to £35.6 million and earnings per share 35 per cent to 8.06p because of more shares in issue. The full-year dividend

was held at 5p after paying a maintained 3.25p final.

The City is looking for £40 million pre-tax profits from Ken Foreman, the chairman, this year, giving 8.4p of earnings and putting the shares on a forward multiple of 1.3 times. There is little support for the shares and Attwoods' fundamental strengths are unlikely to be reflected in the price in the short term.

## Premium bond sales surge

By SARA MCCONNELL

PREMIUM bond sales peaked last month at their highest level since their launch in November 1956, contributing £36 million to National Savings' total gross sales of £656 million.

Although this does not beat the £48 million that poured in from eager gamblers in 1956, similar enthusiasm has not been seen since October 1988, when National Savings reported gross premium bond receipts of £33 million. A National Savings spokesman ascribed the bonds' popularity

to the current advertising campaign. The more money comes in, the more chance people have of winning at least a small prize. Last month, the bonds added £23 million to government fundings.

Fixed interest savings certificates made the highest net addition — of £132 million. However, these 38th issue certificates, which brought in £166 million gross for the three weeks of September they were on sale, were withdrawn on September 22. They were replaced with the 39th issue,

paying a lower rate of 6.75 per cent a year tax-free on certificates held for five years.

National Savings sold £65 million of First Option bonds last month. The high interest bond brought in £300 million in July, when its rate was set at 7.75 per cent. Since then, rates have fallen because of two successive base rate cuts.

Total contribution to funding so far this financial year is £2.7 billion, of which £1 billion is accrued interest. The total invested at the end of September was £42.5 billion.

## Hunting depressed by defence squeeze

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A CONTRACTION in defence profits and a decline in demand for executive jet contracts took their toll at Hunting. The defence, aviation and oil group suffered a 13.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £13.5 million in the six months to June 30. Turnover, about half of it from overseas activities, was flat at £369 million.

Defence profits dived 44.3 per cent to £3.52 million, on turnover down 31 per cent to £63.2 million. The figures for the comparative period were boosted by Gulf-related contracts and results this time were depressed by the "stop-start" on a light anti-tank weapon contract for the defence ministry. "This caused a bit of a hiccup in profitability, but we are making it up in the second half," said Ken Miller, chief executive.

Aviation profits fell 17 per cent to £4.65 million, on turnover 8 per cent lower at £69.2 million. The division was hit by a decline in private jet business, including a cancelled BP Survey Flight contract, worth about £500,000 in profits, as BP switched a lot of surveying from areas such as South America to the former Soviet Union. The oil and technology division's profits grew by 14.3 per cent to £7.06 million, on turnover up 17.2 per cent to £237 million.

Despite economic uncertainty, Mr Miller expects a better second-half performance, "assuming no further adverse movements in the markets in which we operate". Increased capital expenditure pushed gearing up to 68 per cent (58 per cent fully diluted earnings drop to 8.2p (9.1p) a share, but the interim dividend is maintained at 4p.

Reduced consumer spending continued to depress sales of Hunting's specialised products, although UK activity continued to be profitable and losses in America were reduced "considerably".

Analysts predict full-year pre-tax profits of about £26.5 million, against £21.1 million last year. Hunting shares eased 3p to 155p.



Miller: "a hiccup"

## Jobs go at Clarke Foods

A TOTAL of 178 redundancies were announced by receivers called in earlier this week to the Lyons Maid ice cream firm, Clarke Foods.

There were 35 at offices in Greenford, west London, 67 at a factory in Liverpool, 37 at a plant at Stourbridge, West Midlands, 27 at a factory at Telford, Shropshire, and 12 from the sales force.

Ipe Jacob, of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, said the redundancies make Clarke Britain's second-largest manufacturer of ice cream, with a

workforce of 97. "Many of the jobs now being lost are expected to be replaced after a successful restructuring of the company's business, which is currently at the lowest ebb of its seasonal cycle," he said.

The receivers have had nearly 50 enquiries, including from companies in Europe and America, and are optimistic it will be saved. Clarke is estimated to have debts of at least £40 million. Shares were suspended at 8p early this month after trading at a peak of 163p.

## Heseltine claims on cheaper gas rejected

By PATRICIA TEHAN

CLAIMS by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, that gas-fired electricity generation is cheaper than coal-fired generation based on coal from British mines were criticised yesterday. Gerard McCloskey, a coal analyst, said: "Not only is gas more expensive than coal on the proposed new contract price levels, but it is also more expensive than the existing much higher prices being paid to British Coal."

This week, Mr Heseltine said gas was cheaper. "There is no case if you are a generator of electricity for buying from anything other than the cheapest, most reasonable source," he said. They would not be buying gas if coal was cheaper. The new coal contracts currently under negotiation between British Coal and the power generators are priced at about 150p a gigajoule, compared with 185p a gigajoule this year. The generators buy their coal in pence per gigajoule. A gigajoule is the

international measurement of the heat content of coal.

In the latest edition of his *International Coal Report*, Mr McCloskey said: "No estimate of gas generation prices has been presented by the trade department to justify the closure of the coal mines."

Much of the reason for the reduction in demand for coal that led to this week's decision to close 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs is the so-called "dash for gas". Power generators and the electricity supply companies are racing to build gas-fired power stations.

The generators argue their gas-fired stations will be competitive with coal prices. Dr Alf Roberts, PowerGen's commercial director, said the company expects to recover the costs of building gas-fired generating plants over the life of its gas supply contracts. He believes PowerGen can produce electricity 20 per

cent cheaper than independent generators who came into the market later.

Unlike supply companies, generators are unable to pass on the higher cost of gas-fired power to their customers. The higher gas-fired power prices are likely to come from independent firms, in which electricity supply companies have stakes. All but one supply companies have stakes in independent gas-generators with which they have signed supply contracts. They say the independents give competition to National Power and PowerGen. The contracts, often for 15 years, were not put out to tender. Dr Roberts said, PowerGen had not been asked to compete in the bidding to provide supply companies with long-term gas-fired power. Mr McCloskey said the surge of gas buying for new power stations has raised the gas price from 16p to 21p a therm, equal to a rise from 154p to 200p a gigajoule today.

## NatWest paves way for \$500 million issue

NATIONAL Westminster is paving the way for an issue of up to \$500 million of "exchangeable capital securities" through filing a registration statement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. The securities would initially qualify as tier 2 capital but would be convertible into non-cumulative preference shares, ranking as tier 1 capital for capital adequacy purposes.

NatWest said the proceeds raised from any issue made under the filing would be used for "general corporate purposes". Richard Goeltz, NatWest's chief financial officer, said: "The instrument is very attractive in terms of its flexibility." He said the issue had nothing to do with any weakening in the bank's capital ratios, which he described as "very strong". NatWest made an issue of similar securities last year, Mr Goeltz said. Michael Lever, an analyst at Smith New Court in London said: "The timing will depend on market circumstances." He added: "NatWest might want to use it if the dollar remains strong against sterling and they decide to hedge more of their capital against dollar movements." Profile, page 21

## Avonside chief leaves

GORDON Carruth, the chief executive of Avonside Group, the housebuilding and building services group floated by Cannon Street Investments in March, has left the company and is likely to resign from the board. Shares in Avonside responded with a 10p fall to 74p, compared with the offer price of 106p. Mr Carruth is understood to have left by "mutual agreement", and is expected to receive contractual compensation of about £100,000. A company spokesman said: "We perceived the need to have a more clear leadership and a more clear policy." Christopher Glynn, non-executive chairman, will assume executive responsibility pending the appointment of a new group managing director. He said the group continues to trade profitably and still has net cash.

## Oil activity falls 25%

OIL exploration and appraisal activity in the UK sector of the North Sea fell 25 per cent in the third quarter over the same period last year as low oil prices eroded exploration funds, according to Arthur Andersen & Co, the consultant. Drilling levels continued to fall due to gloomy conditions in the oil industry. Overall appraisal and exploration work is expected to fall 23 per cent this year. A low oil price and heavy five-year development commitments for most operators weakened exploration budgets. Money is also being deflected to new areas like the former Soviet republics. To date this year, 116 exploration and appraisal wells have spudded on the UK continental shelf, 81 of them wildcats.

## Voilex buys in Far East

VOILEX Group, the products and systems company, is buying a 60 per cent stake in Mayora, a Singapore manufacturer of data and power cord assemblies for the medical, computer and appliance markets. Voilex is paying about £6.5 million. A vendor placing of more than 1.9 million new ordinary shares, underwritten by SG Warburg at 275p per share, will raise approximately £5.26 million. Existing shares rose from 286p to 293p. Jay Pok, Mayora's former owner, retains 40 per cent and will remain chief executive. In 1991, Mayora made pre-tax profits of \$2.3 million (£847,145) on sales of \$22.7 million.

## Brooks Service slides

BROOKS Service Group, the textile rental and retail services company, has passed the interim dividend (1.3p) after incurring pre-tax losses of £104,000 in the half-year to end-June, against profits of £336,000 previously. Turnover was £11.7 million, down slightly from £11.8 million but trading profits fell sharply from £574,000 to just £55,000, which was insufficient to cover an interest charge of £269,000. The deficit was partly offset by an exceptional credit of £10,000 arising from compensation for the relocation of a shop and the sale of rental goodwill. Losses were 0.55p a share, compared with earnings of 1.85p.

## Dunton improves

DUNTON Group, the brick maker and property group quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, reports a substantially reduced taxable loss of £803,000 in the year to end-May, against a loss of £4.45 million last time. The company's turnover declined from £3.24 million to £2.74 million. The loss per share was 1.01p, against a deficit of 7.74p a share last time. The company remains cautious and does not anticipate a return to profitability until recovery in the economy and the property sector in particular. Dunton shares firmed 2p to 12p.

## Baris passes payout

BARIS Holdings is passing its interim dividend (2p) after exceptional legal costs of £356,000 pushed the fire protection and insulation group into the red at the half-year stage. The USM-quoted company suffered a pre-tax loss of £70,000 in the six months to end-August, against a profit of £403,000 last time. Turnover held up well, despite the tough conditions, edging to £11.3 million (£11 million). The company has a relatively healthy order book of £10 million. There is a loss of 1p (3.7p earnings) a share, against earnings of 3.7p a share previously. Baris shares eased 3p to 53p.

## Hawtal losses grow

HAWTAL Whiting Holdings, the automotive design consultant that issued a warning on trading at its last year-end, incurred losses of £1.4 million in the six months to the end of June and is again passing the dividend. Losses were 22.9p a share, against losses of 0.7p last time. Turnover fell to £27.3 million, from £30 million in the comparable period, and there was an operating loss of £1.4 million, compared with profits of £178,000. The company said benefits of reorganisation undertaken earlier in the year should be reflected in the second half results.

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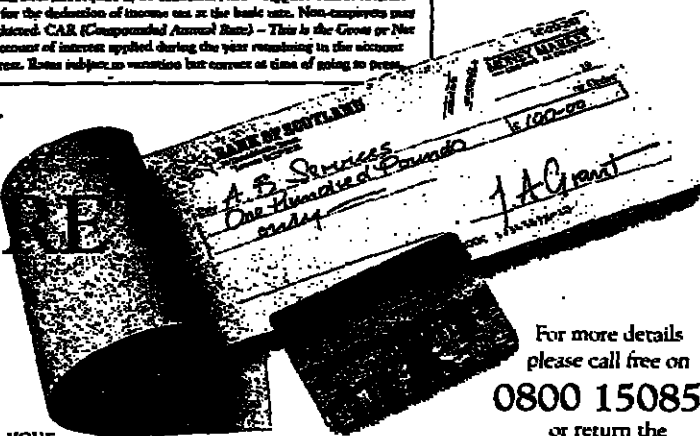
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## BUSINESS PROFILE: Derek Wanless

## Quiet calculator keeps the bank board in check

Even if you already know Derek Wanless, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank, pretend for a moment that you do not. Try to think what a chief executive of one of Britain's big four clearing banks, with 99,000 employees, 2,800 branches and assets of £126 billion, might look like. Now look again at Wanless. The two will not be the same.

Wanless, for a start, is younger. At 44, he is the youngest ever chief executive of the NatWest and, with a double first in mathematics from Cambridge, he is also the first ever graduate. His clothing might look more or less the part — grey or navy blue suits — and his overall appearance, steady eyes apart, is fairly ordinary. His most surprising characteristic is his manner. Words such as stuffy and pompous, so often used to describe prominent bankers, do not apply to Wanless — salary £267,000 last year — comes from a new generation of clearing bankers and is, in a way, the leader of that pack.

Those who have met Wanless, escorted by Lord Alexander, the chairman, across a luncheon table at the bank's Lothbury headquarters, say they were underwhelmed. That apart from his Geordie accent, he left no lasting impression. That is, however, more a comment on the scale of Alexander's personality, than a criticism of Wanless. Alexander, a silk of exceptional ability, is effortless in the way he gets people to talk, but also, as befits a barrister, enjoys theatricality and limelight. Wanless, an equally good listener, with the same talent for persuading people to talk, is a far quieter man. He is especially quiet in Alexander's presence, in- siders say. Some point to Wanless's curriculum vitae and say that it speaks more of potential than results. Wanless would probably agree. He complains that he was often moved on too quickly, from one posting to another during his 22-year career with the bank. "As soon as I got into one job, I was moved off to another. I regret not being able to spend more time in each one." He was catapulted into his present job in April this year, after 18 months as head of UK financial services, as Tom Frost was elevated to deputy chairmanship so that he could concentrate on helping the DTI in the enquiry into NatWest's involvement in the Blue Arrow scandal.

Although Wanless had clearly been earmarked for greater things early on, to the outside world he was not necessarily the most obvious choice of successor. The City, in fact, would have preferred the job to have gone to John Tugwell, who turned around NatWest's loss-making operations in America. He, they would argue, had achieved something tangible. But Alexander insists that it is wrong to suggest that Wanless lacked a track record. "If you look at the issues he has addressed, his

## Carol Leonard meets the man who has achieved his ambition to be head of National Westminster Bank

ability is obvious," says Alexander. "When I first set eyes on him he was making a very professional and rather formal presentation to the board and was clearly someone with ability who would go far. But what is even more attractive... is that he is also very personable. He thinks things through like a chess player. If I put a sentence to him which may lead somewhere else, he might correct one word before he accepts it, but he does it in such an amenable way that I agree with him."

Just as Wanless can charm Alexander, so, it would seem, he is starting to charm the City. In the six months since he took the helm, NatWest's share price has been steadily rising and Barclays has assumed NatWest's place as the *bête noir* of the sector. Fund managers suddenly all want to have NatWest in their portfolios again. Bearing in mind the Blue Arrow affair, the £155 million loan to Maxwell, the £2 billion bad debt provision in 1991 and the recession, Tesco chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin, a NatWest non-executive director, concedes that Wanless has taken over "at a very difficult time" but will not hear a word against him. "His influence is already coming through quite clearly. In the papers the non-executives receive, for instance, everything is well thought out, clear and not too banky. I can understand them even though I'm just a common grocer." That confidence is shared by Wanless. He might be genuinely modest, but he is never self-doubting. "I have always had plenty of self confidence. It comes from success," Alexander reveals that on the self appraisal form

Wanless filled out when starting at the bank, in answer to the question "What is your ambition?" he wrote: "Chief executive". Wanless says he would not have joined the company were the fulfilment of that ambition not a possibility and says he was not too surprised when he was eventually offered it. "We had been following events".

By "we", Wanless is referring to his wife Vera, the mother of his five children — aged from seven to 18 — whom he met in his native Newcastle. He clearly discusses most matters with her and, according to those who know him well, she exerts a strong influence over him. She is untypical of many other banking wives, at least in so far as she still works part time as a civil servant.

Wanless, an only child, was brought up in a flat in the centre of Newcastle and then a three-bedroomed semi-detached house. Home is now a five-bedroomed Charles Church property in Surrey. His father, a strict Presbyterian, was a storeman in a cement factory. Wanless, a scholarship boy at both Cambridge and grammar school,

says he was offered — and declined — a chance to study for a PhD. At school, he says he was best known for his sporting ability and his gift for mathematics. Now, he cites one of his most distinctive traits as his ability to control his emotions. "In an organisation of this size it is useful if you are controlled but also able to articulate well."

Wanless's emotions were certainly under control when Alexander offered him the job as chief executive. He admits only to a small smile. Yet both friends and colleagues say that his self-description of being cold and unemotional is incorrect. Wanless then explains his lack of a more emotional reaction when offered the job by saying, "I'm always very cold and calm when people give me information. I just absorb and think about it and try and work it through." The chess player in action. "I was trying to think of the implications," he adds. Similarly, if

angered — by "sloppiness, I like people to be punctual" — he is likely to appear "colder rather than hotter. I become more and more factual".

When it comes to inevitable comparisons with Frost, there are many similarities. "We are both very personable," agrees Wanless. But there are differences too. Wanless is generally accepted to be brighter.

He evades that question. "I'm more analytical in terms of the detail I get into. I think that's very helpful at the moment. I'm more interested than Tom was in how we measure all aspects of the business, not just short-term profits but long-term profitability."

When it comes to talking business, the nice guy image starts to fade and the eyes harden. We discuss the doubts that were raised at the time of his appointment about whether or not he would be tough

enough to handle the coterie of problems he had inherited. He argues that he is in a no-win situation. "On the one hand, we are accused of being ruthless and not caring, on the other, we are accused of not being ruthless enough. Could I be ruthless? Oh, I would think so. No, I would never fire someone in anger."

Wanless agrees that he has been ambitious, but has never been accused of "ruthless ambition. I would always put the bank before myself." A company man then? "Yes, probably." He spends quality time with his children at weekends.

With his ambition achieved, what comes next? He has been mooted as a possible governor of the Bank of England in ten years' time. Wanless laughs. His laughter is squeaky and his shoulders rise up and down. "I haven't even thought about that. I would just like to do this job for long enough to make a difference."

Sir Ian MacLaurin has no doubt that he will. "I think he's a superstar. He is still feeling his way at the moment but his stature will grow. Derek Wanless is a man you are going to hear a lot about."



Untypical team: Derek Wanless and his wife Vera are not stereotypes of the banking world

'I think he's a superstar. He is still feeling his way at the moment but his stature will grow'

## Tapie says Adidas is no longer for sale

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

BERNARD Tapie, the French business tycoon, said that Adidas, the German sports goods company indirectly owned by his Bernard Tapie Finance, is no longer for sale. On Thursday, Stephen Rubin, chairman of Britain's Pentland Group, said his company was calling off its proposed £215 million acquisition of Adidas after finding surprises in pre-acquisition investigations.

Asked in an interview with *Les Echos*, the financial daily, if he was seeking another purchaser for Adidas, Mr Tapie said: "No. Get it into your head that we are no

longer selling. That does not rule out a professional one day being brought into the shareholders' club."

Mr Tapie said that his personal share of the 340 million to 509 million franc capital injection judged necessary for Adidas would be about Fr100 million. The balance on a Fr2 billion loan granted in 1990 for his acquisition of Adidas stood at Fr200 million.

Rene Jaeggi, Adidas chairman, said in Munich that Pentland's decision to withdraw its bid could damage the German company's competitive position. The collapse of the deal was the result of a "short-circuit" in negotiations between Pentland and M Tapie. "This has nothing to do with Adidas," Mr Jaeggi said. He said the affair could shake consumer confidence in Adidas, which was battling for market share with other sporting goods companies.

Mr Jaeggi insisted that the company's financial base was sound. It would still carry out by the end of the year a plan to boost its capital by DM60 million.

In July, Mr Jaeggi and a group of investors made an unsuccessful offer to M Tapie for Adidas. He said he would not try to revive that bid.



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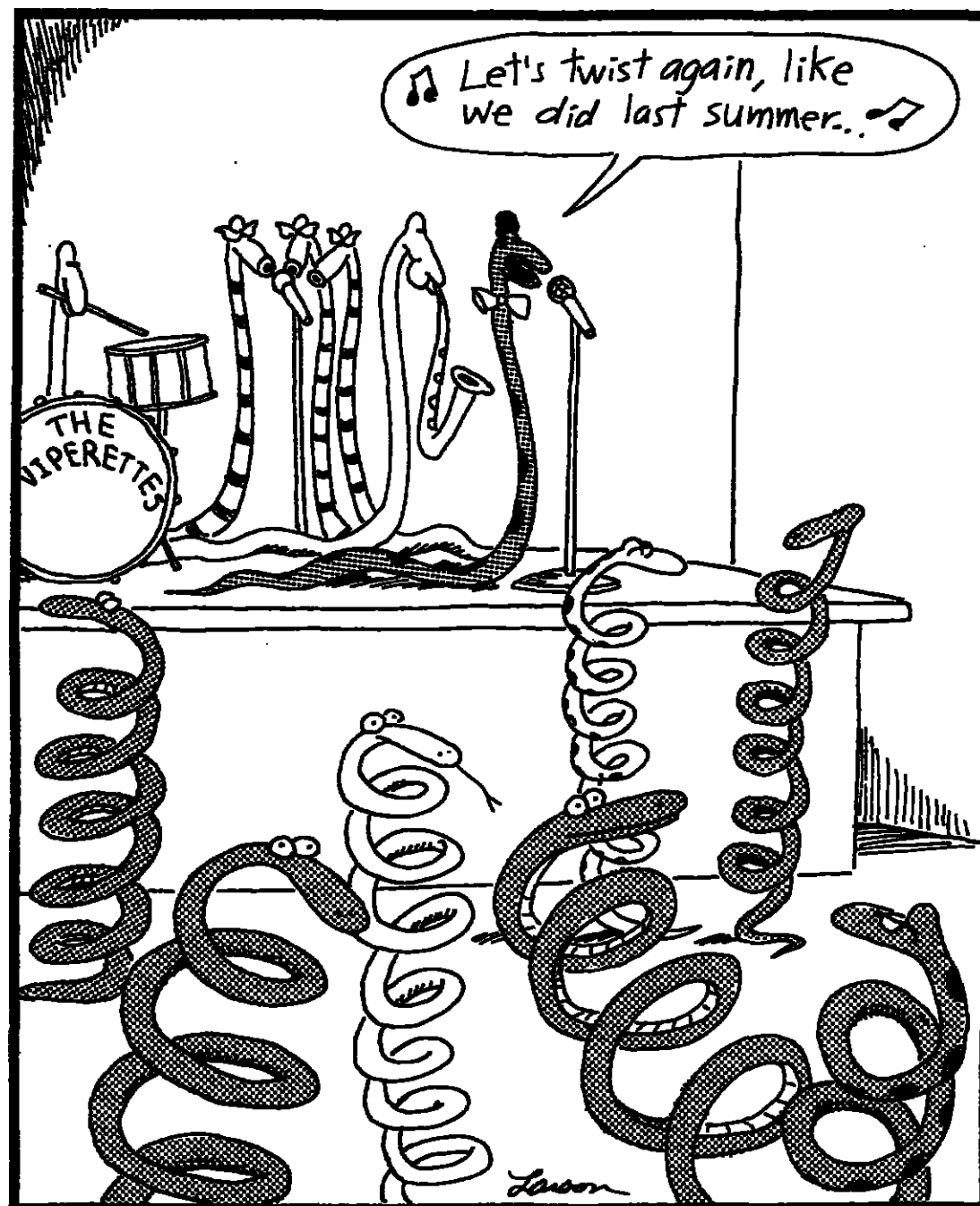
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# WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## Financial vultures target payoffs

The scavengers are rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of the commission to be earned on 30,000 redundancy cheques to be handed out to miners plus all the others being distributed at the rate of one a minute across industry.

Never have there been such rich pickings that are so easy to get hold of. Tied agents of insurance companies and other financial advisers are more than willing to offer their services free to any company laying off staff. All the firm has to do is give them access to those being made redundant in the canteen or a special office set aside for consultations and they have all the authority of a firm selected by caring employers as the best to give advice.

Most people should bide their time before making binding decisions on what to do with their payoff. It may take them longer than they think to get another job.

Salesmen often do not want to give that time for fear of other advisers getting hold of the money first. Too often they want people to

invest all their money. The most lucrative products for the salesman, unfortunately for the poor redundant workers, are long-term insurance plans, which are costly to get out of early if the money is needed.

Investment advisers should initially do little more than make sure the money is safely deposited and that guidance is given on how to cope with outgoings in the short term. It is impossible in the early days to say how long it will take to get a job, whether moving to another part of the country will be necessary, or whether the only way to get work will be to set up a business.

When life returns to some kind of normality, longer-term planning can be undertaken with the emphasis on getting the most out of any tax allowances or exemptions that can be used and safety must be the watchword. Many of those made redundant will not get another job



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

and have to think about how they can eke out their payoff. They cannot afford to risk any of it being lost.

Paying a financial adviser for his or her time is one way of ensuring that commission does not dominate the investment proposals made, especially if any commission rebated ends up in the salesman's pocket.

Those put into the wrong product at the wrong time with the wrong advice could count themselves lucky. The investors' compensation scheme knows only too well that the suppliers of financial advice at such times do not always invest the money

where they claim they are going to. At least two of the firms for which the scheme is having to compensate investors offered financial advice to the newly redundant.

More than four years after the Financial Services Act came into force, there are still too many rogues, giving bad advice and disappearing with money from investors.

It is not good enough to rely on the name of a good insurance company, either, as tied agents are not always as scrupulously monitored as they should be. If the money ends up in the agent's bank account, it can lead

to a long wrangle before the insurance company pays up — if it does at all.

For most people made redundant, the cheque is the largest they have had to invest. It cannot be trusted to any jack the lad who turns up at the factory gate.

### Cunning move

Abbey National's surprise, and seemingly generous, extra cut in mortgage rates earlier this week was shown yesterday to be a shrewd gamble. The initiative to homeowners and boost for the housing market will also add nicely to the former building society's profits.

Its mortgage rate reduction has still been deferred from November to December but savers know to their cost that their interest rates were cut at the beginning of Octo-

ber. The Abbey, in fact, will have an extra month of high mortgage payments during November. But the house-buying public has been given an image of a caring lender keen to help them. It is keen to help a larger share of the market to come its way without having to pay for it.

The delay of any mortgage cut until December helps the balance sheet and is a trick learned from the Cheltenham & Gloucester, another smart operator.

It has been improved upon by the Abbey. C&G has postponed its single cut to 9.75 per cent to December. Abbey announced its first cut and then added to it while postponing the first one.

The Abbey might have preferred a longer delay before the 1 per cent base rate cut to 8 per cent so that it could steal a march on most of its competitors for longer. Now they will all be on a pretty even footing from next week as far as rates offered to new borrowers are concerned.

The Abbey does not intend to report a fall in profits for a second six-month period if it can help it.

## Recession takes its toll on marriage

Money worries can have a devastating effect on relationships and are increasingly blamed for the rising divorce rate. Banks and building societies now report that the problems can become worse after a split

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

FINANCIAL problems are causing more couples to split up, according to statistics from Relate, the marriage guidance council. Banks, building societies and credit card companies report that the financial problems tend to get even worse when marriages end.

One marriage in three fails and the recession is taking its toll. Last year, 70,000 couples sought help for the first time from marriage guidance counsellors. Many blamed money troubles. Unemployment, redundancy and debts all had a "devastating" impact on families, the report said. This was published in the week that 30,000 miners heard that they were to lose their jobs and the jobless figures reached 2.84 million.

However, while financial institutions agree that money worries can cause families to split, they argue that the debts tend to increase immediately afterwards, as one wage often tries to pay for two households. It is difficult to establish whether the financial problems preceded a breakup but they are often evident after it. The environment department published statistics this year showing that marital breakdown was a greater cause of homelessness in the first quarter of this year than mortgage arrears and repossession. Those applying for rehousing by local authorities gave breakdown of relationship

with partner in 16 per cent of cases as the reason for needing a new home.

Problems can arise when one partner and the children continue to live in the family home when the other partner is paying the mortgage. If there are financial strains, the payments on the home may not be a priority. If the payments are not made by the person living in the house, the first they might hear of arrears is when bailiffs arrive, in extreme cases. Most lenders check properties earlier.

The departure of the main breadwinner from a home can cause unexpected extra costs. A wife who has not been named on the telephone, gas, electricity or water rates accounts may find that she has to pay deposits of at least £100 to safeguard these services.

When it comes to current accounts and credit cards, those who have relied on joint accounts or supplementary cards on a main account can be in for a shock. Barclays, the largest credit card issuer, said people in this situation were treated as new applicants with no track record. This can mean a low credit limit on a credit card and little or no overdraft until they prove themselves creditworthy.

The applicant has to be credit scored and checked out. Maintenance is treated in the same way as earned income in such procedures. The holder



of credit cards or accounts where there are supplementary cards is responsible for all payments incurred by the second cardholder. A letter to the credit card company advising of the marital split may not be enough to stop the bills mounting. In one case, a dentist was asked by a charge

card company to retrieve his wife's supplementary card. He was unable to do so and she ran up £8,000 on the charge card and £5,000 on her credit card before a block could be put on the cards. It was an extreme case and the dentist was pursued all the way to the High Court for the money.

Barclays said that it sometimes wrote to the additional card user on behalf of the cardholder to ask for a card back. If this did not work, a block had to be put on, which meant the other card had to be replaced as well. Marital breakdown was a major cause of debt, a change of circum-

stances that needed careful handling by the two parties. Lloyds has been analysing the shift from joint to single accounts. It asks for marital status on all loan and current account application forms but has not analysed whether divorced people are more likely to overdraw.

## Making allowances for who has custody

COUPLES who are divorcing or separating should tell their tax office because they will be able to claim allowances depending on who has responsibility for any children from the marriage (Sara McConnell writes).

The former husband can continue to claim a married couple's allowance, currently £1,720, in the tax year of the divorce as long as he has been living with his wife sometime in the year. After this, he cannot claim unless he has custody of the children, in which case he can claim an additional personal allowance of £1,720. If his ex-wife has custody of the children, the additional allowance will go to her. Single parents of either sex are also entitled to the additional person's allowance. If the couple has opted for joint custody of the children, they can split the allowance, otherwise the Inland Revenue will do it for them.

A woman who remarries again or remarries her former husband can continue to claim the additional personal allowance in the tax year she is married if she had a child living with her before the marriage. Her husband can claim one twelfth of the mar-

### TAX AND WILLS

ried couple's allowance for each tax month he is married.

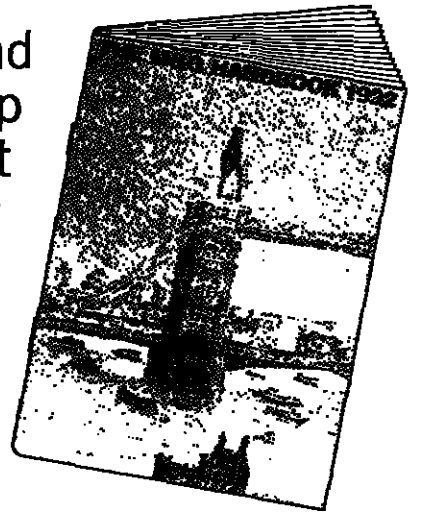
In later years, both can claim their personal allowances, with the man claiming the married couple's allowance as well. Any surplus married couple's allowance can be transferred to his wife. From April next year, either partner can ask the Inland Revenue for half the married couple's allowance without the agreement of the other.

Divorcing couples should also make new wills, although any bequests made to former spouses will be cancelled as soon as the divorce becomes absolute. Richard Bark-Jones, partner in Morecroft, Dawson and Garnett, solicitors, said making new wills ensured that an ex-husband or wife did not receive everything if anything happened before the divorce was finalised.

Ex-wives or husbands who have been receiving maintenance payments from a former partner who then dies can appeal to the courts for a "reasonable" settlement if the will leaves everything to a present partner.

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## Legal separation can protect rights

INCREASING numbers of couples are divorcing later in life and this can create particular problems where pensions are concerned. The general trend towards earlier retirement means that couples in their fifties as well as those in their sixties can be affected (Anne Caborn writes).

According to David Salter, a spokesman for the Solicitors' Family Law Association and editor of *Pensions and Insurance on Family Breakdown*, published by Jordan, many of these couples have no plans to remarry, which may make divorce the wrong option.

According to *An Aging Pop-*

### LIFE SAVINGS

Family Policy Studies Centre, in 1990, one in thirty-nine women and one in forty-four men over the age of 65 divorced without remarrying. It is predicted that by 2025, the ratio will have increased to one in eight women and one in eleven men.

For couples with no plans to remarry, the alternative might be a legal separation, as this would still leave a divorced spouse entitled to widow's or widower's pension. Before taking this route, it is important to check the details of the pension

scheme. Mr Salter said: "You have to look at individual schemes to see if they're talking about simply a widow, or if it will also include a widow who is legally separated. Not all schemes do."

If separation is not practicable and if there are not enough other assets to compensate fully a divorcing spouse for the loss of pension rights, one option might be to defer part of the lump sum settlement.

Again it is important to look at the individual pension. Mr Salter added: "In

certain cases, this is not possible. For example, with the armed forces there is a statutory prohibition against lump sum orders being made against such pensions."

The amount of the deferred payment has to be set at the time of the divorce. If the wife is reasonably well off in her own right, the other alternative is to defer the entire lump sum application until retirement, which means the amount doesn't have to be agreed upon until then.

The courts will not allow an indefinite deferral. "In broad principle, the courts have been prepared to defer the application for up to five years," Mr Salter said.



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## Many policyholders still fail to make use of free legal and domestic helplines

## Insurers on line to take the strain

BY HELEN PRIDHAM

FIVE years after the 1987 hurricane, when emergency services were at a premium, householders are still failing to make the most of domestic and legal helplines provided 24 hours a day for insurance policyholders.

Over the past five years, they have been added to most contents and buildings policies. They put householders in touch with reliable tradesmen quickly and therefore avoid insurance companies having to pay out for expensive cowboys.

The legal advice can give help on any private legal matter, such as employment, consumer law, property disputes, matrimonial matters and motoring offences.

Most insurers use specialist companies to provide these services, such as Hambro Legal Protection, DAS and Mondial.

Brian Knight of Hambro, said: "Our solicitors can tell callers exactly where they stand legally and what their options are. This may be sufficient for them to deal with the matter themselves or not to take action that could make

the situation worse or where they have no prospect of success.

"If it is a complicated matter, we may confirm our advice in writing. In around 40 per cent of cases, further calls are involved as we advise people to do something and then they call back to tell us what has happened so that more advice can be given. This is all part of

**'Our solicitors can tell callers where they stand legally and what their options are'**

the free service." Legal advice does not normally come so cheap. Ian Hawkins, of Mondial Assistance, which provides advice lines for Prudential and Teachers Assurance, said: "Getting legal advice from a solicitor would normally cost you anything between £75 and £250 an hour."

Mr Knight estimates that

about four million insurance policyholders have access to his company's legal advice lines. Among the companies with which Hambro is linked are Norwich Union, Legal & General, Eagle Star and Guardian Royal Exchange.

He said that, at present, employment problems are coming up most frequently. "At this time of year, we also traditionally get a large number of calls from people whose holidays did not turn out as they expected and want advice on what legal action they can take."

"People facing motor prosecutions ring up to find out what their rights are and what pleas they can make. In matrimonial cases, we have distressed dads ringing up at weekends because they have been denied access to their children, or people who want advice on past divorce arrangements."

Mr Knight admitted there are a "fair number" of calls regarding unsatisfactory insurance, but said there was no conflict of interest because there are European Community laws that forbid general



## 'Sweeping' changes for Royal Bank customers

BY SARA MCCONNELL

ROYAL Bank of Scotland customers will be able to set the level of funds they keep in their current accounts and have the rest transferred automatically to savings accounts as part of the Balanced Banking service launched this week.

Unlike other "sweeping" services offered by clearing banks, however, Royal Bank customers can also choose a minimum below which the current account must not fall. If it does, funds from the savings account will be transferred automatically to top up the balance.

Chris Jewell, Royal Bank's marketing sector director for personal banking services, said many customers who had day-to-day use money in the bank and savings in a building society stood to lose interest every time they needed to move money from one account to another.

He agreed the bank was trying to tempt the 60 per cent of its customers with building society accounts to switch to a Royal Bank savings account.

Customers using the service open a Gold cheque account, specifying the maximum and minimum balances. They also have to deposit at least £5,000 in a Gold deposit or Gold Ninety account. Any money over the agreed maximum balance in the Gold cheque account is "swept" into the

chosen deposit account. Only those with a Gold deposit account "sweep back" money from savings to top up their minimum cheque account balance, however, as the Gold Ninety account needs 90 days' notice for withdrawals.

Those who stay in credit or within the £100 free overdraft limit on their cheque account will receive free banking. If the savings balance in the Gold deposit or Gold Ninety account falls below £5,000 in any month, a £5 fee will be debited to the cheque account.

Customers will earn 5.18 per cent net, 6.90 per cent gross annually on £5,000 in a Gold deposit account and 5.48 per cent net, 7.30 per cent gross on the same amount in a Gold Ninety. The Gold cheque account pays 2.78 per cent net, 3.70 per cent gross on credit balances.

Midland Bank has offered a "sweeping" facility on its Orchard and Meridian cheque accounts since January 1990. Customers specify the maximum in their current accounts and the rest is transferred into an Orchard or Meridian savings account. Lloyds Asset Management customers can opt to have excess funds "swept" into an Asset Management Investment account. They have to hold a minimum of £500 in their current account.

## CGT ALLOWANCE, SEPTEMBER 1992

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in September 1992.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.887	0.805	0.528	0.448	0.394
February	—	0.880	0.599	0.516	0.443	0.386
March	0.755	0.877	0.594	0.502	0.441	0.385
April	0.720	0.854	0.573	0.471	0.427	0.369
May	0.708	0.847	0.567	0.464	0.425	0.368
June	0.703	0.843	0.563	0.461	0.425	0.368
July	0.703	0.834	0.565	0.464	0.430	0.369
August	0.702	0.827	0.560	0.460	0.425	0.365
September	0.703	0.820	0.547	0.461	0.418	0.361
October	0.695	0.814	0.537	0.458	0.416	0.355
November	0.686	0.808	0.533	0.453	0.404	0.348
December	0.680	0.804	0.534	0.451	0.399	0.349
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
January	0.349	0.258	0.167	0.071	0.028	
February	0.344	0.247	0.160	0.065	0.023	
March	0.339	0.241	0.148	0.061	0.020	
April	0.318	0.220	0.114	0.047	0.004	
May	0.313	0.212	0.105	0.044	0.001	
June	0.308	0.208	0.100	0.040	0.001	
July	0.306	0.207	0.099	0.042	0.004	
August	0.292	0.204	0.088	0.040	0.004	
September	0.286	0.198	0.078	0.036	—	
October	0.273	0.186	0.070	0.032	—	
November	0.267	0.176	0.072	0.028	—	
December	0.264	0.173	0.073	0.027	—	

The 1st month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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## Young workers stay in pocket

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

CHILDREN are having to work harder for their pocket money, according to the Halifax Building Society. Its annual survey of savers aged under 11 shows that more than half work for their pocket money. They also have more pressures on the money, with fewer able to save most of it and many rely on their parents for their day-to-day spending.

The survey of Little Xtra savers shows that pocket money has risen 8p to £1.48p, but 54 per cent of youngsters have to work for the money compared with 51 per cent a year ago. Average earnings are £1.36 and 12 per cent of the youngsters say that money earned from household jobs is their only source of income. While 55 per cent of girls earn money this way, slightly fewer boys do so.

Saving is still a top priority with 68 per cent, who save at least more than they spend. Last year, 71 per cent made this claim. The percentage of youngsters who spend all they received has risen from 9 to 10 per cent.

There has been a slight fall in the number of children who receive pocket money, down from 80 per cent to 79 per cent. Most commonly, it comes from parents but almost half of the under fives get theirs from grandparents. Youngsters in the North have suffered worst in the past year. They now receive an average of £1.56 compared with £1.80 last year. Those in Greater London had the largest increase, up 40p to £2.

Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "Children, especially the older ones, continue to have very sensible views on money management. The fact that so many work to earn their pocket money should mean that they appreciate its value more. The positive attitude towards saving of our youngest customers is as encouraging as in previous years. We now have over one million Little Xtra Club members who, judging from the results of this survey, should grow up into financially aware adults."

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## Pension fund members in dark over surpluses

By SARA MCCONNELL

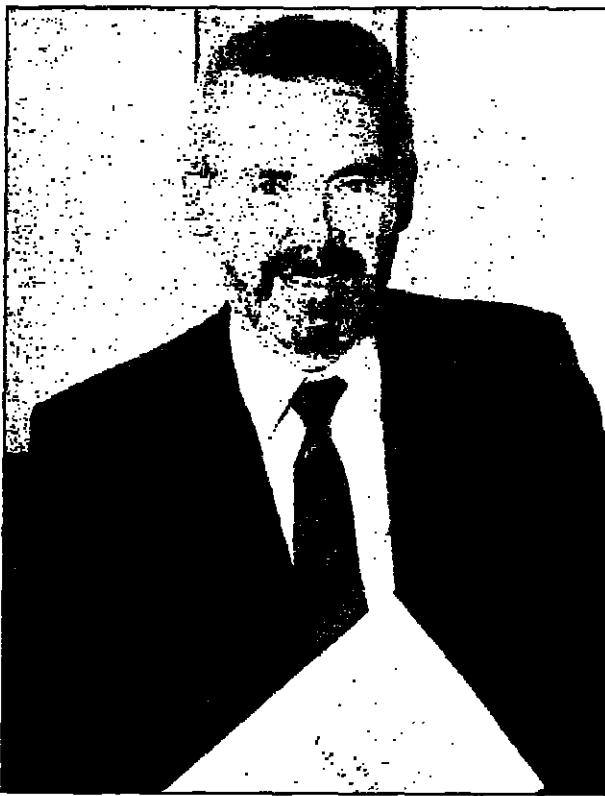
LUCAS Industries, the aerospace company, this week paid £90 million of its pension fund surplus to shareholders as dividends. The legality of the transfer of £150 million a year ago that made this possible is now being challenged in the courts by Lucas pensioners.

Lucas's rival, British Aerospace, is expected to reveal in its next annual report that it has a huge pensions surplus. Last year's surplus was worth £800 million. This equals £2 for each BAE share, currently valued at 139p.

These cases focus attention on the question of who owns surpluses. Members of occupational pension schemes with surpluses have no legal right to a say in how these are used and could find it difficult even to find out whether there is a surplus, pensions experts said this week.

Increasingly, companies struggling to maintain dividends are using pension fund surpluses to prop up the company's finances. They are helped by legislation that says if pension fund assets exceed their liabilities by more than 5 per cent, they will lose their tax exempt status. A survey of big pension funds earlier this year suggested that 90 per cent of top companies had a surplus after the late 1980s boom.

Mike Brown, director of information services at the



Expecting a flood of submissions: Don Hall, of Opas

National Association of Pension Funds, said if trustees of company pension schemes wanted to reduce surpluses they could declare a contribution holiday for themselves or for employees, improve benefits or add new benefits for scheme members or transfer

money to the company. If they chose the latter, they had to pay tax at 40 per cent. What trustees are allowed to do with surpluses is normally set down in the trust deed. However, this can be changed. Exceptionally, Lucas's original trust deed forbade the trustees to make any payment to the company or make any amendment allowing transfers of funds to the company. It obtained permission last year from the Occupational Pensions Board to use some of the surplus for itself. Scheme members do not have to be consulted about how it is used.

Lucas argued it used £225 million of the £600 million surplus to improve benefits for members and pensioners. It also said members were consulted before the OPB was approached.

Sean Hand, head of the pensions unit at Cameron Markby Hewitt, solicitors, said: "There is no overriding rule of law requiring employers or trustees to consult beneficiaries about a proposed disposing of surplus." Employees had no right even to be told there is a surplus.

Every three years, there is an actuarial valuation of the scheme's assets, but this does not have to be distributed to members. If the actuary needs to revise the valuation meantime, members have to ask for the new valuation. A recent change in the reporting rules for company schemes means trustees have to ensure the scheme annual report and accounts are distributed. However, they still do not have to distribute the actuarial valuation.

The issue of who owns surpluses is being considered by the Pension Law Review Committee, which is accepting submissions from the industry and the public until December 15. Don Hall, chief executive of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, predicted that the committee would be "inundated" with submissions.

He said: "The issue is central to the whole basis on which final salary schemes work. The question is complicated by the decision that pensions are deferred pay but the other argument is that it is the benefits that are deferred pay not the surplus. It is important to make a distinction between members' rights and expectations."

## Policy costs add to homeowners' woes

By PAUL NUKI

THE rising interest rates and falling investment returns homeowners have faced over the past few years is bad enough. Worse still is evidence published this week that mortgage endowment policy charges have also been rising.

Statistics compiled by Theys Limited, financial analysts, show life assurance companies have increased charges significantly on endowment policies and personal pension plans over the past two years.

Average charges on a ten-year endowment policy — expressed as a reduction in the total return to the investor — is now almost 10 per cent higher than in 1990. Charges on 25-year endowments and personal pension policies have risen about 7 per cent in the same period.

Information on the effect of charges and expenses on investment performance may be provided to investors soon under proposed rules. But there will be no guide to how the costs compare with the industry average.

Short-term policies have been worst affected by recent bonus cuts. The figures show the average estimated reduction

in yield on a ten-year policy is now 3.14 per cent, compared with 2.86 per cent in 1990. Assuming the policies' target maturity value is £35,000, investors are paying £1,099 in charges, compared with £1,001 two years ago. The equivalent figures for 25-year personal pension plans have risen from 1.55 per cent to 1.66 per cent. The figures also show there is great variation in charges between companies.

On pensions, the story is similar, highlighting the fact that a company that is good in one area may not be competitive across the board.

Insurance companies point out that charges should not be used in isolation to judge different companies' policies. A modest difference in investment performance can wipe out the widest variations in charges and put the most expensive company at the top of the league.

Nevertheless, charges are normally fixed from the outset and therefore offer something solid for investors to work from. Future investment performance can only be guessed at and past performance, while useful, may prove to be no guide at all.

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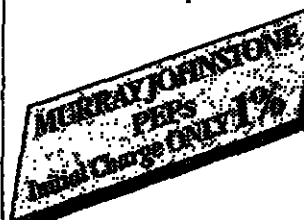
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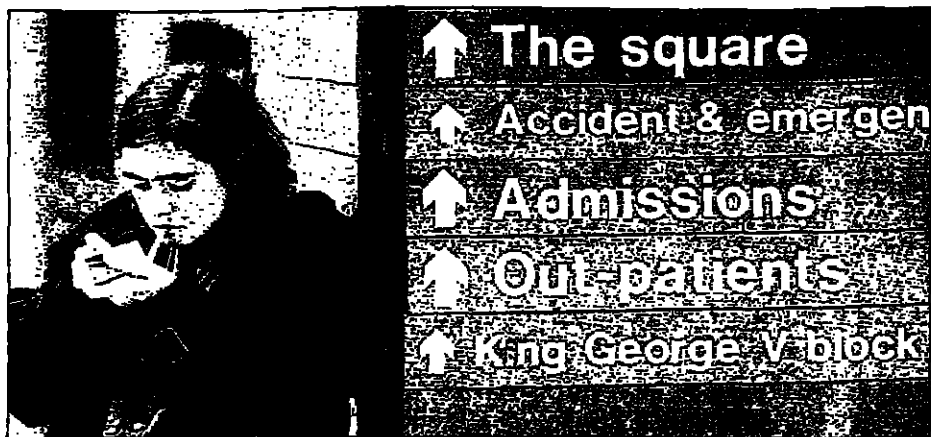
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Paying the price: research suggests that smoking does lower life expectancy

## Smokers face premiums rise

By SARA MCCONNELL

SMOKERS could face a 10 per cent rise in term assurance premiums after new research this week showed almost twice as many smokers died in a two-year period as comparable non-smokers, and that smokers die on average six years earlier than non-smokers.

Life offices normally charge about 30 per cent more in term assurance premiums to smokers than to non-smokers to cover the increased risk of paying out to those who die during the term of the policy. These policies, normally required by lenders to cover borrowers with repayment mortgages, pay out only if a policyholder dies during the term.

Spencer Leigh, chief actuary at Royal Life and a member of the Continuous Mortality Bureau, which conducted the research, said the findings could mean a widening of the differential to 40 per cent. Smokers may find it more difficult to shop around for the cheapest cover as life offices that did not previously have a differential introduced one. Royal Life is intending to introduce a differential in the next fortnight, following most of its competitors. Mr Leigh said a 30-year-old male smoker with a 25-year term assurance to cover a repayment mortgage might pay £200 for £100,000 of cover, compared with a non-smoker paying £150 for the same cover. Any increase in the differential will apply only to new policies.

Professor David Wilkie, CMI's chairman, said smokers with endowment policies were not likely to face the same price rise. This is because most of an endowment premium goes to fund the investment rather than life cover. The CMI bureau said that of 500,000 policyholders surveyed in 1988 and 1989, 1,888 died in the two-year period. The group included 386,402 non-smokers and 159,124 smokers. If the smokers surveyed had been subject to the same mortality rates as non-smokers, 528 should have died. In fact, 954 smokers died. Of these deaths, 777 were men and 177 women.

However, the report pointed out that if mortality rates had been the same for female smokers as for non-smokers, there might have been only 92 deaths. If male smoker and non-smoker mortality rates had been the same, 436 might have died.

Professor Wilkie said: "It is evident that there are almost twice as many deaths among smokers as among comparable groups of non-smokers and this is equivalent to an age difference of six years. Of course we don't know whether, if all smokers gave up smoking, they would all live longer."

## Finding relief for the headache of a diminishing inheritance

By LIZ DOLAN

HEIRS to the estate of the Marquess of Cholmondeley, including the new Marquess, were recently left a cool £116 million. Most people inherit considerably humbler amounts, but even those in the tens of thousands bracket can cause substantial headaches.

The glut of houses on the market means many of the 150,000 properties inherited each year can become more of a millstone than a milestone in the financial affairs of the beneficiaries. Smee & Ford, which collects daily statistics on wills, estimates that about £8 billion each year is left in the form of property assets, almost half the total value of estates bequeathed in England and Wales.

More than two-thirds of inherited properties are put up for sale immediately. Traditionally, these have been easy to shift as there is no chain and beneficiaries often accept an offer well below the market price.

Today, however, devaluations of up to 30 per cent may still not be enough to sell unwanted homes. In addition, many beneficiaries are unwilling to take such a large cut in their inheritance, preferring to wait an upturn in the market. This throws up a new set of problems. Empty properties are more expensive to insure and tend to deteriorate more rapidly. Renting is a possible solution, but not in cases

where death duties have to be paid, or where one or more of the inheritors require an immediate realisation of their share of the assets.

A new offer from BNP Mortgages, the British arm of the Banque Nationale de Paris, may minimise resultant family squabbles. It allows beneficiaries to mortgage a large part of the value of the property, thus releasing lump sums for those that require them while allowing the rest to wait until the market recovers. Loans are available on up to 75 per cent of homes worth a maximum of £150,000, 70

per cent up to £200,000 and 65 per cent to £250,000. BNP strongly advises — although it does not insist on — renting out the property until such time as it can be sold. Unless borrowers can meet the monthly repayments from existing assets, they probably have no choice.

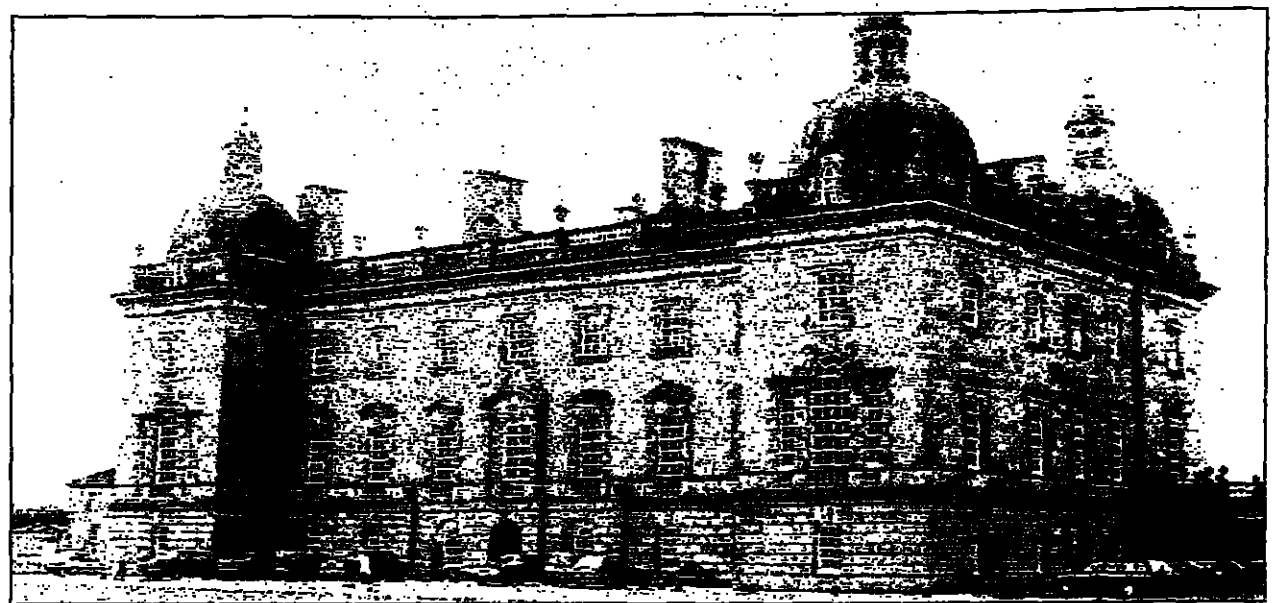
BNP does not arrange rentals, but supplies free booklets on how to go about it, and on the tax position of those who choose this option. Landlords receive full tax relief on interest payments on the total loan, rather than just the first £30,000 as is the case with

conventional mortgages. Rental income is charged against interest relief, but landlords can also claim against maintenance expenses.

Types of mortgages available include repayment, endowment and pension-linked. The variable rate is a hefty 10.85 per cent (9.85 per cent for the first six months), but a 9.6 per cent rate, fixed for two or three years, is also available. The arrangement fee is £250, plus £105.75 for the mandatory checking of any rental agreements. Buildings and contents insurance must be arranged through BNP.



The new Marquess



Country seat: Houghton Hall, the Norfolk stately home is part of the estate of the late Marquess of Cholmondeley

### NEWS IN BRIEF

BARCLAYCARD is to cut its monthly credit card interest rates from 1.85 per cent to 1.79 per cent for cardholders who do not pay off their monthly balances in full. The annual percentage rate (APR) on a typical credit limit of £1,000 will fall from 25.8 per cent to 24.9 per cent. The reduction comes into effect for transactions from November 1 and will apply to all statements issued from December 1. The new APR for students and holders of both a Barclaycard Mastercard and a Barclaycard Visa card will be 23.7 per cent, compared with 24.6 per cent now.

Bradford & Bingley building society has launched a

unit-linked investment bond guaranteeing the original investment back after five years. Investors' funds in the Assured Growth Bond are split between two Scottish Provident funds, the Blue Chip fund tracking the FT-SE 100 index, and the Money Market fund. This invests in gilts and short-term deposits from banks and building societies. With the guaranteed return option, 75 per cent of the investment goes into the Blue Chip fund and 25 per cent into the Money Market fund. The bond is guaranteed to be worth at least the initial investment after five years.

A new bond from Britannia building society also guaran-

tees to return the original investment. The Triple Guarantee Bond, managed by Britannia Life, the society's life assurance subsidiary, guarantees investors 110 per cent of the growth of FT-SE 100 companies over five years. If the index falls, investors are guaranteed their original investment. The bond is available until November 30. Those applying before November 10 will receive 2 per cent extra.

A one-year bond from Stroud & Swindon building society will pay 10 per cent gross, 7.5 per cent net on investments of between £2,000 and £10,000. The rate is variable but is guaranteed to

be at least 2.5 per cent above the first tier of the society's Classic Gold account. Withdrawals will be allowed only in emergency and will be subject to 90 days' loss of interest. There is a maximum investment of £25,000 per person.

An investment trust specialising in the shares of companies in emerging countries is being launched by Garimore Investment Trust Management. The company hopes to raise a minimum of £20 million and aims to list the shares on November 25.

The Woolwich Holiday Club, launched by Woolwich building society and Page & Moy, the travel agent, is

offering the society's customers up to £500 holiday money if they book through Page & Moy's holiday club hotline. Customers will receive £20 spending money for every £299 spent on the basic holiday, subject to a minimum of £300 and a maximum of £7,500. The cheque's value will depend on the basic price of the whole booking.

Consumer confidence in the stockmarket remained almost unchanged last month, despite fluctuations caused by sterling weakness, according to this month's Pearl Investor Confidence Index. There was a marginal decline in confidence of 0.8 points, from 80 in September to 79.2 in October.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Pass performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of shares and income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount they invest.

**JOHN GOVETT**

### National Westminster Bank

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 16th October 1992 its Base Rate is reduced from 9.0% to 8.0% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank Plc  
41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2DP

### BANK OF SCOTLAND BASE RATE

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Monday 19th October 1992 its Base Rate has been decreased from 9.00% per annum to 8.00% per annum.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

### BASE RATE

With effect from Friday 16th October 1992 Coutts & Co have reduced their Base Rate from 9% to 8% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly.



**Coutts & Co**

440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

### ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 9% p.a. to 8% p.a. with effect from close of business 16th October 1992.

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD READ

**What is the Triple Guarantee Bond?**  
It is a new investment opportunity which guarantees a return on your investment of at least 100% after five years. The investment is made up of three parts: 100% of your original investment is guaranteed to be returned to you at the end of five years. The other two parts are investments in the FTSE 100 Index and in a selection of 100 of the largest quoted companies in the UK.

**What is the Maturity Benefit?**  
The Maturity Benefit is the sum of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK. This benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

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**Where is the money invested?**  
The money is invested in the FTSE 100 Index and in a selection of 100 of the largest quoted companies in the UK. The investment is made up of three parts: 100% of your original investment is guaranteed to be returned to you at the end of five years. The other two parts are investments in the FTSE 100 Index and in a selection of 100 of the largest quoted companies in the UK.

**What happens if the market falls?**  
If the market falls, the value of the investment will fall. However, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

**Can I cash in the money before five years?**  
Yes, you can cash in the money before five years. However, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

**What is the effect of changes in the value of the FTSE 100 Index?**  
The value of the FTSE 100 Index can go up or down. However, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

**What is the effect of changes in the value of the 100 largest quoted companies?**  
The value of the 100 largest quoted companies can go up or down. However, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

Investment Amount	Minimum Investment
£5,000 or more	£5,000

**What happens if I die during the five years?**  
If you die during the five years, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to your estate. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

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**What is the effect of changes in the value of the 100 largest quoted companies?**  
The value of the 100 largest quoted companies can go up or down. However, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to you at the end of five years. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

**What happens if I die during the five years?**  
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**What happens if I die during the five years?**  
If you die during the five years, the Maturity Benefit is guaranteed to be paid to your estate. The Maturity Benefit is calculated as follows: 100% of the original investment plus 100% of the growth of the FTSE 100 Index and 100% of the growth of the 100 largest quoted companies in the UK.

Period (Years)	4% Inflation	7% Inflation	10% Inflation
1	962	939	899
2	929	872	821
3	889	816	751
4	855	765	687
5	822	715	627

**The information in this leaflet is based upon Britannia Life's understanding of legislation and current Revenue practice as at 25.9.92. Legislation and Revenue practice are, of course, subject to change.**

**Copies of the full Plan Terms and Conditions are available on request from Britannia Life's Head Office.**

**Cancellation.**  
When you take out your Triple Guarantee Bond you will have the opportunity to withdraw from the Contract within 14 days of the day you receive a notice formally advising you of your 'Right to Cancel' in line with the Financial Services Act (Cancellation) Rules, 1987.

**Britannia Building Society, PO Box 444, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST1 5TW**

The Triple Guarantee Bond is one of the most exciting new investment opportunities offered by Britannia Building Society, through Britannia Life.

Only open to investors until 30th November 1992, the Bond guarantees you 110% of the growth of Britain's 100 largest stock market quoted companies, as measured by the FT-SE 100 Index, after five years.

Or all your original investment back at the end of the Bond's term, even if the market falls. Guaranteed.

In fact, the Bond offers you three guarantees ...

## GUARANTEED 110% OF THE GROWTH IN VALUE OF BRITAIN'S 100 LARGEST STOCK MARKET QUOTED COMPANIES

If in 1984, you had invested £10,000 in these companies through the FT-SE 100 Index, your investment would have grown to £23,126!

Furthermore, to give you added security, your return will be calculated on the average FT-SE 100 Index figure over the last six months of your investment term. This is to make certain that should any last minute falls in the stock market occur, they do not disproportionately affect that return.

Of course, it should be made clear that past performance is no guarantee of future performance, and that the value of shares can fall as well as rise.

It is also important to note that although you can withdraw your capital at any time, if you do so before the five-year term ends, you may not get back all of your original investment.

## RETURNS NET OF PERSONAL TAX

You will pay no personal tax on your returns from the Bond as long as you are a basic rate taxpayer or a non-taxpayer at the time you cash in the Bond.<sup>††</sup>

## GUARANTEED 100% SECURITY FOR YOUR ORIGINAL INVESTMENT

There is no risk to your original investment whatsoever. This is because, at the end of five years, if the value of the FT-SE 100 Index is lower than when you took out your Triple Guarantee Bond, we guarantee to return the full amount you first invested.

## GUARANTEED 100% PEACE OF MIND

You can invest in the Bond in the complete confidence that your original capital is safe, and that these three guarantees are given by Britannia Life Assurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Britannia Building Society Group with assets approaching £9 billion.

## INVEST BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

The Triple Guarantee Bond is a strictly limited offer that must close on 30th November 1992, or when the available funds have been exhausted. The minimum investment is £5,000, the maximum £250,000.

## HOW TO BE CERTAIN OF YOUR 'EARLY BIRD' BONUS

Invest by 10th November 1992, and you will receive an extra 2% of the growth of the FT-SE 100 Index, increasing the guarantee to 112%. This could prove to be a valuable boost to the profits you could make with the Bond.

## ACT NOW

Simply complete and return the application below with your cheque to us at Britannia Building Society. If you have any questions at all, please call our FREE 24 hour HELPLINE: It is manned from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday (answerphone outside these hours). The number is 0800 526 350.

<sup>†</sup>Source: Mifcorpal 2.1.84 - 1.9.92. FT-SE 100 Index.

<sup>††</sup>Britannia Life pays tax on the underlying fund.



**Britannia Building Society**

FT-SE 100 Index.

# Here's the catch.

**OFFER MUST CLOSE 30TH NOVEMBER 1992**

## TRIPLE GUARANTEE BOND APPLICATION

Please return your cheque and completed application form to:

**Britannia Building Society, Customer Service Centre, FREEPOST 235, Leek, Staffs ST13 5AD.**

No stamp is needed. Or you may wish to use first class postage for a faster return.

### 1. Personal Details BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, (Delete as applicable) Other title \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Date of Birth

(Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

(minimum age 18, maximum age 80).

### 3. Amount of Investment (Cheque made payable to Britannia Life Assurance)

£ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum £5,000)

I hereby request Britannia Life to issue a Triple Guarantee Bond Policy on my life in accordance with the terms of this application. I declare that the above statements are true and shall form the basis of the contract between me and Britannia Life. I also declare that I am a resident of the United Kingdom.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you would like a copy of your Application and/or the full Terms and Conditions of the Contract. ☐

Britannia Building Society may use this information to provide me with details on the Society's and its subsidiary companies products and other developments which it feels may be of interest to me. If you do not wish to receive such details please tick this box. ☐

Britannia Life Assurance Limited, A Life Assurance and Pensions Company. Registered in Scotland No. 4348. A Member of LAUTRO. Britannia Building Society is an Appointed Representative of the Britannia Life Marketing Group (members of which are members of LAUTRO and IMRO), only for the purpose of advising on and selling life assurance and pensions and other Financial Services Act Investment Products bearing Britannia Life's name.

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£50,000 or more	10.50%	7.88%

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\*Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where tax deducted exceeds the investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. †For illustrative purposes only, based on the current basic rate of income tax of 25%. The rates paid are guaranteed not to fall below those shown before 1st January 1993. Thereafter rates may vary. Once this account ceases to be an offer, no further investment can be made in the account until the one year guaranteed premium period ends. No withdrawals from this account are permitted for one year from the date your account is opened. After the guaranteed premium period of 12 months ends, withdrawals may be made without notice or penalty. All withdrawals subject to normal branch limits of £250 in cash and £100,000 by cheque. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch. If you have invested in one of the previous issues of Premium Investment Plus and the guarantee period has since ended you can transfer your investment into this issue, subject to meeting its terms and conditions. Woolwich Building Society, Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Barking, Essex, DA6 7RR.

## LETTERS

### Widows manage to allay pique

From Mr Peter Ward  
Sir, May I add a footnote to R. J. Hobdell's letter (October 3) on the failure of insurance companies to notify elderly policy holders that their policies have matured.

I had five company and private pensions due on my 65th birthday but only one society advised me, Scottish Widows. The others I was obliged to prompt.

Sadly, after such a good start, Scottish Widows did not commence payment for some six months, notwithstanding several calls and letters. Even-

tually, reflecting on the society's appalling advertisements and in desperation, I wrote: "Keep cash, send widow".

That seemed to do the trick: perhaps the "widow" was already spoken for. Instead, and in compensation for the delay, Scottish Widows increased my pension very generously. Fortunately, I doubt I could have kept her in her accustomed style.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WARD,  
Trio,  
Carlton Road,  
South Godstone, Surrey.

### Leasehold reform can avoid windfall gains

From P. A. C. Trower  
Sir, Mrs Loder-Dyer (October 10) argues that long leaseholders will not make "windfall gains" if the Leasehold Reform Act is extended.

The last case I valued concerned a pretty Victorian cottage where a 50-year lease was granted in 1953 for a premium of £750 and a fixed ground rent of £5 pa. In 1991, under the valuation principle advocated by Mrs Loder-Dyer, the landlord received approximately £30,000 compensation, and the lessee then quickly sold the cottage for about £200,000. This was a windfall gain by anyone's standards.

If the 1967 Act is to be extended, then Parliament must amend the rules to take into account the following.

First, who provided the building? It must be fair to have separate valuation rules

for bare ground leases (where the lessee built the dwelling) and leases where the landlord provided the dwelling and the land.

Second, was an initial cash premium paid to the landlord? If not, the lease should be unenfranchisable.

Third, have there been lease improvements? No reasonable landlord would object to compensating these.

This will change completely if leases become enfranchisable – your article on 3rd October shows that values are changing already. To avoid a "vicious circle" valuation, Parliament should therefore base compensation on a clear ap-

### Putting the case for the arbitration scheme

From Mr Robert Morgan  
Sir, I write with reference to Sara McConnell's article "Income plan buyers may sue" (October 10).

What the users of the arbitration scheme for Fimbra must bear in mind is that the scheme is a legal procedure and the arbitrator must decide disputes by reference to the applicable law. Claimants must prepare their cases properly, for the arbitrator has no power to investigate facts. The arbitrator will be acutely conscious of this in order to produce an award that truly reflects the issues between the parties. The issues of fact and law raised by the case were not

suitable for a documents-only procedure because all such issues needed to be aired in an oral hearing. The claimants were offered the choice between an oral hearing and litigation, for which they may qualify for Legal Aid. The potential costs to the claimants were foremost in the arbitrator's mind. The costs that the claimants were stated to face, of up to £10,000, are presumably the fees quoted to them by their legal or other advisers for assistance at the oral hearing. This level of fees suggests that the issues to be decided in the arbitration were indeed complex.

The arbitrator did not, as

your article states, take a year to decide that the matter was not suitable for documents-only arbitration. The arbitrator was appointed in January 1992. Following several requests to the parties for further information, applications from the parties for extension of time, receipt of further submissions, loss of documents in the post and several attempts to set up a preliminary meeting, the arbitrator issued a termination order in mid-September 1992. Any delay that occurred was thus not his fault. For example, both the arbitrator and the respondent were willing to hold a preliminary meeting immediately. The claimant's advisers were unable to attend and this led to a delay of three months.

I should add that this is the first case of which I am aware in which the arbitrator has been criticised by a party for bending over backwards to do that party justice!

One final point. The Arbitration Scheme is run not by Fimbra but for Fimbra by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. There is a difference. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MORGAN,  
Legal adviser,  
The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators,  
International Arbitration Centre,  
24 Angel Gate,  
City Road, EC1V.

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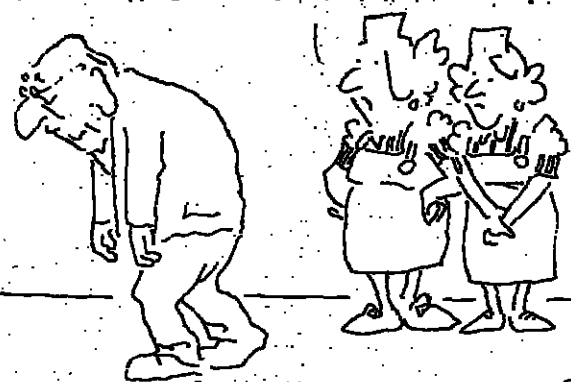
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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Borrower beware

From Mrs M. Bedwell  
Sir, I was under the impression that help was available for people falling behind with their mortgage repayments. Through no fault of his own, a friend became unemployed. His wife was, and is, in reasonably paid employment. The husband has moved 200 miles away to find work. The house has been on the market at an attractive price for over a year. The couple have been paying what they can afford to the building society.

The society found this unacceptable and gave the option – pay arrears in full now or repossess your home. There was no choice for this couple who have two children but to hand over the keys. Just five days after they moved out, the building society had sold the house for the exact amount of the mortgage. Is it my imagination or is there a whiff of insider dealing here? Yours faithfully,  
MRS M. BEDWELL,  
Stoneleigh, Stoke Prior,  
Leominster, Herefordshire.

## Unhealthy rise in health cover premiums

From Mr Gordon Connolly  
Sir, Regarding Mr Archer's letter (October 3). Having been a subscriber to BUPA since 1972, I have been appalled over the last two years at the vast increase in premiums. I believe these institutions are taking advantage of the income tax relief to increase their premiums thus nullifying the intentions of the Treasury. Pressure must be brought to

bear on these companies to reduce premiums to a realistic level. At 66, my premium in two years has increased from just over £100 per month before tax to over £200 per month after tax. This makes the published inflation figures look rather stupid. Yours faithfully,  
GORDON CONNOLLY,  
Clare, Cold Ash,  
Newbury, Berkshire.

## INTEREST RATES ROUND UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25% 40%	Min/max Investment	Notice	Contact
<b>BANKS</b>					
Ordinary Dep A/c Typical	2.85	2.85	2.12	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	6.05	6.05	4.84	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-626 1567
	6.05	6.05	5.54	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-626 1567
	6.05	6.05	6.14	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
	6.05	6.05	6.84	2,500-no max	6 mth Local Branch
Lloyds	5.20	5.20	4.18	10,000-no max	1 mth 0742 528555
	5.20	5.20	4.88	10,000-no max	3 mth 0742 528555
Midland	6.05	6.05	4.84	10,000-no max	1 mth 071-728 1000
	6.05	6.05	5.54	10,000-no max	3 mth 071-728 1000
NatWest	5.77	5.77	4.62	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-728 1000
	5.77	5.77	5.32	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-728 1000
	5.44	5.44	4.26	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-728 1000
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>					
Bank of Scotland MNC	6.75	6.89	4.71	2,500+	none 031-442 7777
Barclays Prime Safe	6.18	6.18	3.85	2,500+	none 0604 252891
Co-operative	0.84	0.84	0.75	1,000+	none 071 626 8549
City	4.48	4.48	3.60	1,000+	none 071 896 2076
Girobank	0.75	0.75	0.60	1,000+	none 0272 433372
Lloyds HICA	3.16	3.16	2.54	2,000+	none 0749 528555
Midland HICA	3.16	3.16	2.54	2,000+	none 0749 528555
NatWest	3.00	3.08	2.42	500+	none 0800 300 400
Special Reserve	3.75	3.80	3.04	2,000	none 071-596 8556
Royal Bank of Scotland	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000+	none 071-600 8000
TSB Bank					
HICA					
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>					
Ordinary Share A/c	1.13	1.13	0.80	250+	none
Best buy – largest socs:					
Bristol & West	7.34	7.34	5.70	2,000 min	Postal
Cheltenham & Gl	7.50	7.50	6.00	25,000 min	Postal
Northampton	6.88	6.88	5.34	40,000 min	30 day
Salisbury	7.50	7.50	6.00	50,000 min	30 day
Woodwich	7.08	7.08	5.50	50,000 min	1 year
Best buy – all socs:					
The Scarborough	7.58	7.58	6.08	25,000 min	Postal
Nottingham	6.84	6.84	5.32	30,000 min	30 day
City & Midland	7.13	7.13	5.70	100,000 min	30 day
Cheshire	7.08	7.08	5.50	50,000 min	30 day
Woodwich	7.08	7.08	5.50	50,000 min	1 year
<b>Cash/Cheque Accounts</b>					
Maxim	2.00	1.50	1.50	50 min	Rates rise
Alliance & Leicester	2.44	2.44	1.50	25 min	with larger
Cash Plus	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 min	balances
Nationswide					
First					
Compiled by Chris de Vere Newcombe - call 071 404 5788 for further details					
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	9 day 041-649-4555
Investment A/c	7.25	5.44	4.35	5-25,000	1 mth 041-649-4555
Income Bonds	8.00	6.40	5.40	2,000-50,000	3 mth 0293 09151
First Opt Bond	8.50	6.80	5.80	1,000-250,000	041-649-4555
South Essex Cert	6.75	6.75	6.75	100-4,000	9 day 081-385-4500
Yearly Plan	8.75	8.75	8.75	25-40,000	14 day 081-385-4500
Children's Bond	10.10	9.10	8.10		
Gen Ed Ret	8.01	8.01	8.01		
Capital Bond	8.00	6.75	5.40	100-100,000	8 days 041-649-4555
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>					
Prosperity	7.10	7.10	6.04	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Prosperity	7.25	7.25	6.18	15,000 min	2 yrs Chase de
Prosperity	7.50	7.50	6.38	15,000 min	3 yrs Vero
General Portfolio	7.10	7.10	6.04	50,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5788
Aetna U.K.	7.50	7.50	6.45	50,000 min	5 yrs for details
<b>RPI (Sept 91-92)</b>					
Bank Base Rate	9%				170.00
Personal Loan	24%				310.00
Credit Card	18.6-32%				2150.00
<b>Holiday rates</b>					
Spanish Peninsular					170.00
French France					310.00
Greek Crete					2150.00
Italian Lake					
<small>* 5.2% for balances below £200, first 10% of interest tax free, interest subject to withdrawal of £100 or less. † Additional income up to £10,000 for investors in approved proceeds relating to certain certificates. ‡ Tax free. * Interest payable gross (higher rates for longer terms). † No longer on sale.</small>					
Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY					

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# Wembley international breaks new ground

## Canadians plan to upset England's rebuilding scheme

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONE way or another, England and Canada will know more about their reserve strength after meeting in the unaccustomed environs of Wembley today. England will learn as a matter of policy, having preferred to make five changes from last season, while Canada's hand has been forced by absenteeism.

Although both countries are glancing up the road leading to the 1995 World Cup, this afternoon's game is significant in its own right and not only because it is at Wembley. In the fourth meeting between the teams, England will award caps, recognition of Canadian achievements over the past five years.

Canada proved themselves in the Rugby World Cup last year and the England management, seeking worthy opponents as preparation for the game against South Africa next month, could not have asked for better ones. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has paid travel and

accommodation costs, as it will do for its own players when they tour the United States and Canada next season.

This is the sort of gesture that Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, believes should be made by countries with access to substantial gate-money and sponsorship. "I quite like these one-off games, too, because they achieve a lot without putting the players under extra pressure," Wood said.

The Canadians are delighted. "Doors have been opened to us because of our performance in the World Cup," Norm Hadley, the captain, said. "If we fall on our faces, those doors could just as quickly close."

"We have our problems. We don't make them an excuse but they are there—geographical difficulties, lack of time together, limited support for the game. But against that is the competitive, uncompromising spirit of the players. The days of Canada taking the field hoping just to keep the

score respectable are gone. We are here with winning in mind and losing would be a bitter disappointment. We feel England is unbeatable, in spite of our unavailability."

At 6ft 7in and 20st, the affable Hadley is probably the biggest player in international, never mind Canadian, rugby. Wade Dooley and Martin Bayfield are taller but not heavier. He partners one of Canada's two new caps, Jeff Knauer, in a pack that will hope to give England a run for their money.

But behind the scrum, the difference in class should be dramatic. England retain their seasoned midfield, with the thrust of Jonathan Webb behind, and introduce the gifted attacking skills of Ian Hunter and Tony Underwood on the wings. Both have been pressing for the last two years and the younger Underwood, in particular, might have won caps on tour in Argentina in 1990 but for a lack of confidence induced by injuries.

On that same tour, Dean Ryan did win two caps, at No. 6. He held his place and has done so again today, albeit at blind-side flanker. Both players lacked some self-discipline in 1990 but have learned, and improved, since. Both recognise the opportunities available this season with the removal from the No. 6 shirt of Mickey Skinner, who has yet to play for Blackheath this season, and Mike Teague, who has a rib injury.

At 6ft 6in and 16st, Ryan is powerful enough to play lock for his club, Wasps, and fast enough for an international back row. The impact he makes today, legitimately, may serve him well for the rest of the season. First, England must make the most of their day at Wembley while the Twickenham rebuilding programme continues: 25,000 tickets have been sold in the 78,000-seat stadium. The last time a representative English side played rugby union there, in a services international against Scotland in 1942, they lost.

In previous meetings, England XV's have beaten Canada 29-0 (in Vancouver, 1977), 43-6 (Burnaby, 1982) and 27-0 (Twickenham, 1983).



Driving force: Ryan's season will be heavily influenced by his performance today

## French fear S Africa revival

FROM CHRIS THAU IN LYONS

THE expected sell-out crowd of 44,000 for the first international of the South African tour of France in Lyons today is an indication of the French rugby federation's promotion of the game and the public's suspicion that South Africa have yet to display their best form.

In line with the French federation's policy of staging leading events in unlikely venues to rekindle interest in rugby all over the country, Lyons, once one of the leading centres of the game, has been chosen to host South Africa because of its proximity to the rugby stronghold in the south.

Despite South Africa's early disappointing performances, the French public feels, perhaps rightly, that they have kept some cards up their sleeves and that they will play them today at Stad Gerland.

The Lyons football stadium, South Africa's reaction to French provocation, followed by a stormy display of speed and power in the midweek game in Marseille, give the French fears substance.

The secrecy surrounding their preparations this week strengthens this feeling. The South African management is seemingly trying to develop a "laager" environment, the siege mentality of the Afrikaaner pioneers, in an attempt to strengthen team spirit.

Although the French convincingly won the international series in Argentina, they lost three provincial matches and seemed quite uncertain about their true potential.

The French talk a lot about the skill, the speed and the talent of their backs, while the South Africans relentlessly

## Australia aiming to remain on top of the world

BY DAVID HANDS

AUSTRALIAN rugby has overcome so many challenges in the last eight years that the objectives of victory against Ireland and Wales—on their tour, which begins in Dublin today, seem modest by comparison. After all, when you have seen off all four home countries in one, beaten New Zealand home and away and won the World Cup, what is there left?

The answer is available from any All Black: do it again. Australia are on top of the world; the challenge now is to stay there and sustain the standards of excellence achieved so far. That also means matching the expectations of a public who now expect excitement and originality as a matter of routine.

The game against Leicester at Lansdowne Road today may confirm that Irish rugby is not what it was, and the Welsh rebuilding programme has not gone much further than the foundations yet. But any team, faced with the prospect of playing the best, must rise to the occasion.

"It's a challenge that Australian teams haven't handled too well in the past," Bob Dwyer, their coach, said. Dwyer was confirmed yesterday, along with Bob Templeton and Jake Howard, as the 1993 coaching panel. "Even in 1984 [when the Australians won the grand slam in Britain and Ireland], we lost a number of provincial matches, which suggests that holding the form of Saturday and Wednesday sides isn't easy."

"Outside the internationals, it's hard to make a distinction

between any of them, although we hear that Swansea are going really well and they come only four days after the Ireland test."

"The pressure of being world champions we can live with. I told the guys that if we don't like the pressure, we can soon get rid of it. We only have to lose a match. So far this year, we have handled that task fairly well."

Australia have lost only one of their six internationals—to New Zealand, when the series was decided.

These Australians must also learn to live without the articulate Nick Farr-Jones as their public front. Farr-Jones was not only a world-class scrum half but a walking, talking advertisement for his country: that role now passes to Michael Lynagh, who seems well equipped to cope with it.

Although they have picked their optimum XV for today, Australia will hope to see further development in their young men, among them the locks, Warwick Waugh and Garrick Morgan, and the new comer, Michael Brial, 21, a flanker who, aply, is a futures trader.

LEISTNER: C. Clarke, D. O'Brien, C. Cunningham (captain), M. Ridge, N. Woods, A. McCowen, J. Alen, M. Blackwell, D. Dowling, K. Lashy, B. Rigney, D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

AUSTRALIANS: M. Ridge, M. Blackwell, D. Dowling, K. Lashy, B. Rigney, D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

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MYANMAR: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

THAILAND: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

VIETNAM: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

LAOS: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

CAMBODIA: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

SIAM: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

CHINA: D. O'Sullivan, R. Lowe, P. Lawlor.

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Frank Bruno can tonight take a big step towards a third world title shot. Srikumar Sen considers his chances

## No counting out the man who will not fail to succeed

The knack of succeeding is given to many; few are blessed with the gift for succeeding while failing. Frank Bruno belongs to this rare group. He failed in a mainstream school but succeeded in life, he could not fight but he succeeded as a heavyweight — he boxed twice for the world championship and became a millionaire. He was crushed in both title bouts but became a national hero and was awarded the MBE.

Bruno is not the most fluent of communicators yet he is the nation's favourite son. His jokes are old and his one-liners overworked yet, like Tommy Cooper, he makes you smile in anticipation of what he is going to say. He started his comeback only last November and, after three rounds with two specially selected opponents, he looks like getting a third world title challenge in the spring. He just cannot fail to succeed.

It would take a thesis by sociologists to explain his popularity and why he receives special treatment from the country when there are far better sportsmen than him.

His only serious critics are boxing experts. To them, Bruno Mark II is no different to Bruno Mark I. He is still not much more than a manufactured boxer, with little or no fluency and with nothing, apart from his personality, to give to the game. Bruno as a world champion is unthinkable.

Yet he should not be dismissed just like that. The opposition at the top level these days is not of the highest quality and, should Bruno get through to the challenging stage, he should be given at least a puncher's chance against three of the leading four heavyweights in the world — Evander Holyfield, the champion, Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe. Donovan "Razor" Ruddock would be an altogether different matter.

I believe Bruno Mark II is a much better boxer than Mark I, though I am not sure whether he has improved as a fighter. We may learn more about that tonight when he faces Pierre Coetzer, of South Africa, at Wembley Arena.

Bruno certainly looks more relaxed and rounded, mentally and physically. Weighing 17st, he has

lost much of that too-muscular appearance and, at 30, has the look of a mature heavyweight.

His promoter, Mickey Duff, who was a member of the old team of Lawless and Duff that took Bruno to two world title bouts, agrees. "He could easily end up world champion," he said. "His mental attitude seems to have changed. He seems to be focused much better."

"If this Bruno had fought Tyson, he might have knocked him out. He is a more mature fighter now, much better than the old Bruno. He handles pressure before a fight better. He's not so tense. I can tell from the way he talks about boxing. He will look at his opponent dispassionately as if

### TIME OF THE DATE

Bruno	Age	Coetzer
30	30	30
17st 10lb	15st 7lb	15st 7lb
5ft 3in	5ft 4in	5ft 4in
82in	80in	80in
48in	48in	48in
48in	48in	48in
15½in	15½in	15½in
33in	33in	33in
25½in	25½in	25½in
18½in	18½in	18½in
18in	18in	18in
8in	8in	8in
13in	13in	13in
10in	10in	10in

RECORDS  
Bruno: 34 wins (33 inside distance), 3 defeats.  
Coetzer: 39 wins (27), 3 defeats.

he was making a match for somebody else.

"The old Bruno used to fight hard to lose; this Bruno fights hard to win," Duff said. "He is more determined. He doesn't say 'I hope I win' but 'I'm going to win.' He had Tyson hurt but did not follow up. That was the difference between Bruno and 'Buster' Douglas. Douglas decided to follow up his advantage."

"This time Bruno will do it when he gets a shot at the title. He could win it. If he caught Tyson now with the punch that almost knocked him out, Bruno would say 'Here's another one coming.' It is a pity that just when Bruno could be developing into a genuine

contender, he will not have his former manager, Terry Lawless, with him. Bruno split with Lawless at the beginning of the year.

It would have been marvellous if the two had been together for a third attempt at the world title. Lawless is one of the most experienced corner men in Britain and an excellent motivator in difficult moments during a bout.

It was Lawless who, as the leading manager in 1980, noticed Bruno's potential when he won the Amateur Boxing Association title that year. Despite Bruno's lack of rhythm, it was clear to Lawless that he had the look of a world contender. He was different to the usual crop of ungainly heavy-weight finalists.

When the British Boxing Board of Control turned down Bruno's application for a licence because of short-sightedness in the right eye, Lawless paid for him to have a special operation in Bogotá. He stuck with Bruno through a career filled with drama and disappointment and guided him to his world title challenges. Lawless still cannot understand why Bruno did not sign a new contract with him and he refuses to talk about the matter.

But there are those who feel the break from Lawless was the best thing for Bruno. It allowed him to grow up. Lawless was considered too much of an over-protective father-figure. Even when Bruno was in the middle of a bout as it unfolded, now that he feels he can make his own decisions in the ring, he is more assertive.

Outside the ring, his affairs are managed by a solicitor, an accountant and his wife, Laura, who, as Bruno says, is "an exceptional, bright lady, who could have achieved things as a businesswoman."

Bruno writes in his book, *Eye of the Tiger*: "Since my decision to end my association with Terry Lawless, Laura has come out of the background to help me as a sort of personal assistant. She is a marvelous organiser and makes sure I am where I should be at the right time and in the right frame of mind... There are only so many things I can fit into a hectic



schedule and Laura protects me by gently refusing many of the offers — simply because I am too busy."

Whether or not Bruno was advised by his management team, he made the right decision in retaining Duff as his matchmaker and George Francis as his trainer.

Francis has experience, understanding and is a good companion. He has shown Bruno a few of the old pro tricks. How to unbalance an opponent by a nudge on the shoulder; how to push down

on an opponent's neck; how to hold, particularly on the blind side of the ref. "It was the sort of education I needed when Boncrusher and Witherspoon were taking free whacks at me," Bruno says. "You are great at sportsmanship but useless at gamesmanship," George told me.

Thanks to Duff, Bruno is boxing in a world title eliminator after only two short contests following his return to the ring after an absence of almost three years.

Coetzer is an ideal opponent. He is No. 2 in the World Boxing Association rankings and was thought to be good enough to give Riddick Bowe a qualifying match for a world title challenge.

According to his trainer, Alan Towel, Coetzer is unlikely to be howled over like the last South African Bruno met, Gerrie Coetzer. Bowe could not put Coetzer down. So an impressive win by Bruno tonight should make him as worthy a contender

as Bowe. Francis expects a hard contest that could even go the distance. The most likely outcome is a stoppage on cuts. Towel has admitted Coetzer cuts "like Henry Cooper" and hopes the referee will not intervene without first giving him a chance to patch up his man.

At 17st against Coetzer's 15st, Bruno should have too much power. But one can never be certain when heavyweights collide. One punch can change the course of a contest.

### BASEBALL

## Blue Jays prepare to fly in the face of Atlanta's American dream

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN ATLANTA

BASEBALL history will be made whichever team wins the 89th World Series, which begins in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium here tonight. The Atlanta Braves, the National League champions, are trying to become the first team of any sort from this sports-obsessed city to win a world (ie. North American) championship.

Their opponents, the Toronto Blue Jays, the American League champions, face an even greater challenge: they seek to become the first Canadian team to be crowned champions of the most American of sports.

This second prospect is viewed with a mixture of fear and excitement by most American baseball fans. On the one hand, few can bear to contemplate the possibility of a Canadian club lording it over the national game; on the other, Toronto's presence does lend some legitimacy to the claim that the World Series is indeed a world championship.

But, lest anyone should get carried away by the romantic notion of these plucky little underdogs beating the big, bad Americans in their own back yard, it is worth noting that there will not be a single Canadian-born player in the Toronto line-up.

Their roster for the series is made up of 19 Americans, two Puerto Ricans, two players from the Dominican Republic and a Jamaican. The two Canadians who began the season in Toronto have long since been traded. This will not matter one jot to the club's fans, who have endured much since the club joined the major leagues in 1977.

Three times since 1985, the Blue Jays have reached the American league play-offs only to lose. The first of those defeats was particularly crushing. Having led the Kansas City Royals 3-1 in the best-of-seven series, they froze and lost 4-3. By one of the delicious little ironies that sport

specialises in providing, their manager then was Bobby Cox, now the man in charge at Atlanta.

That defeat, and the two that followed in 1989 and 1991, brought Toronto the reputation for "choking" and an unwanted new nickname, the Blow Jays. But Canadian expectations kept rising, particularly once the club had moved from a near-derelect football ground to the state-of-the-art SkyDome in 1989. In each of the last two seasons, Toronto have attracted more than four million spectators.

Success at the turnstiles increased the demand for success on the field. Thus Cito Gaston, the Jays manager, found himself preparing for the American League championship series this year with the Oakland Athletics knowing that failure would probably cost him his job, never mind that he had steered the team to the play-offs three times in the four years he has been at the helm.

That fear, and the reputation for choking, went west with the Athletics on Wednesday. Roberto Alomar, the Jays' second baseman, who was voted most valuable player against Oakland, admitted that his elation was mixed with relief. "Everybody says we choke in the end but this time we didn't," he said. "Now, we can take the monkey off our backs."

But Canadians have acquired more than just a taste for baseball from the Americans; they also want to win and few will be satisfied until they have won the world championship itself.

Expectations are hardly less great in Atlanta, where sport has gained a new emphasis since the award of the 1996 Olympic Games. The Braves, a vibrant young team that seem likely to dominate baseball for years to come, are owned by the media magnate, Ted Turner, and he and his wife, Jane Fonda, have brought a dash of glamour to a club that used to be regarded as unfashionable.

After years of being pushovers, this was the Braves' second consecutive National League pennant. Last year, they almost won it all, going

down in seven games to the Minnesota Twins in a classic World Series.

The man who did for them then will, by another of those odd twists, be back to face them tonight. Jack Morris, also known as Black Jack, who pitched ten scoreless innings for the Twins in the decisive game, joined the Blue Jays immediately afterwards.

Black Jack is just as mean and moody as might be expected of the pitcher who won the most games in the major leagues in the Eighties but his sour demeanour won him many friends and teammates and umpires made him plenty of enemies.

Twice he has pitched teams to the world championship but, only recently, at the age of 37 and with a two-year contract from the Jays worth \$1.1 million, has he shown any signs of the satisfaction it must have given him.

"It's a beautiful day and tonight I've got the chance to pitch in a major league ball game," he said recently. "After dreaming about that as a kid for all those years, do you understand how fortunate I am? Finally, I do."

Atlanta's hopes also rest with starting pitching but they have problems. Their dazzling young rotation did not impress during their series against Pittsburgh. Tom Glavine and Steve Avery both flopped and the one success, John Smoltz, who started three of the play-off games and who was voted the most valuable player, will not be ready to pitch again until the series moves to Toronto for game three on Tuesday.

That suits Glavine, who starts for Atlanta tonight. As his team-mates showered their dressing room with beer and champagne in the early hours on Thursday, he was subdued. "So far, I've stunk," he said. "I'm just happy we won so I can get the chance to contribute round here." If he beats Black Jack tonight, it is likely to be Atlanta that makes history.

### GOLF

## Typhoon disrupts team cup

TYPHOON Yvette disrupted the first day of the Sunrise Cup, the inaugural women's professional world team championship, at the Sunrise golf and country club, near Taipei, yesterday.

Yvette, whirling northwards from the Philippines, was blamed for the Taiwanese haze that halted play for four hours and prevented any of the 16 teams from completing the course. Best placed were England, one over par after nine holes, thanks to a late flurry of three birdies in two holes by Trish Johnson and Laura Davies. Dale Reid and Pam Wright, of Scotland, were just behind on two over.

Plaintive cries over the walkie-talkie preceded the big break, with Canadian tones pleading: "You can't even hold a club — we're no dry towels, no nothing... there's no possible way of playing the game." True professionals, Dawn Cox and Lisa Walters, the Canadians were level par at the time.

The 5th hole, a par four of 352 yards, was a fair indicator of how difficult things were. Laura Davies was short with a three-wood and a four-iron and dropped a shot and Johnson dropped two. Play was then suspended.

On the resumption, Johnson took three putts for a six at the par-five 6th but she and Davies still finished with broad grins. Johnson put a four-iron to three feet for a birdie three at the 8th and holed from 25 feet for a birdie four at the 9th, where Davies holed from three feet for a grandstand four of her own.

LEADERS SCORES: One over par: England 9 holes: 1. Davies +1, Johnson +1. Two over: Scotland 9: D Reid level, P Wright +2. Four over: Sweden 11: H Atkinson +3, L Norrman +9; Canada 11: D Cox +2, L Walters +9; Peru 12: A Diaz +4, J Lichstein level. Five over: United States 10: M Mullen +4, J Goodie +1. Six over: France 10: M C de Lencastre +1, S Manderson +3. Seven over: Taiwan 9: L Wen-Lin +1, Wang Mei-Yun +8; Japan 12: Y Hsu +4, Y Kawamura +5. Eight over: Italy 12: E Gianni +3, F D'Amico +5; Switzerland 12: R Lutzmann +4, E Oley +5; Spain 11: M Figueroa-Dot +3, I Albaladejo +9. Nine over: Australia 10: J Stephenson +3, C O'Brien +8. Ten over: Wales 12: K Davies +8, H Williams +9. 14 over: South Korea 13: Ko Woo Soon +8, Park Sang-Ja +9. South Africa 8: L Menez +5, A Shumard +5.

### BOXING

## McKenzie pushes for lucrative payday

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

NOW that Duke McKenzie has achieved his ambition of being the first British boxer since Bob Fitzsimmons 87 years ago to win titles at three different weights, his next target is a good payday.

After outpointing Jesse Benavides for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-bantamweight championship at Lewisham Theatre on Wednesday, McKenzie complained about the inadequate financial rewards.

"It's sickening. I think about it every day," he said. "There have been times when I have got sick of it all. Sick of training, sick of roadwork. But I've got to remember a lot of managers would have given up on me when I lost the WBO bantamweight title."

"But Mickey Duff stuck by

me and here I am with a third world crown."

It could mean a trip to the United States for McKenzie to find the kind of money he wants. As Duff has the right to choice of venue, Bill Kazanski, the American promoter who has options on McKenzie's next two defenses, might be persuaded to come up with more money if McKenzie gives up home advantage.

McKenzie's next bout will be early in the New Year. He could try to unify the title, make an easy defence or give Benavides a return.

Jeff Renech, of Australia, the former world champion, has injured his ribs in training and his contest against Jimmy Garcia, of Colombia, in Brisbane on October 25 has been postponed.

### Clydesdale Bank

## BASE RATE

Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from close of business on 16th October 1992 its Base Rate has been reduced from 9% to 8% per annum.

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

## Three-match ban for Tottenham forward

Durie suspended  
by commission  
for faking injury

By IAN ROSS

GORDON Durie, the Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland international football player, was yesterday banned for three matches after a Football Association disciplinary commission found him guilty of misconduct. Durie was judged to have feigned injury during the Premier League game against Coventry City at White Hart Lane on August 18.

The charge, the first of its kind in English professional football, underlines the growing sense of anxiety and unease felt by the sport's governing body over players who over-react to challenges in an attempt to win free-kicks and incriminate innocent opponents.

The ban is scheduled to begin on November 2 but Durie is expected to lodge a formal appeal to clear his name after becoming the first player in England to be officially labelled, and subsequently condemned as, a cheat. He left the FA headquarters at Lancaster Gate without comment after a hearing that lasted nearly four hours.

But Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who represented him, said: "We are very disappointed with the decision and Gordon is devastated by it. His reputation has been damaged and there will certainly be an appeal."

The charge arose after Durie had been tackled by the

Coventry defender, Andy Pearce. Durie reacted angrily to the challenge and after a confrontation, Durie suddenly fell backwards and lay motionless on the pitch. He was then booked by Dermot Gallagher, the referee, who reported to the FA that he considered the Scot had been feigning injury. Video evidence of the incident failed to convince the commission that Durie was blameless and it also ordered him to pay costs of the hearing.

Taylor believes that yesterday's verdict could have far-reaching consequences for football.

"Our case was that the video showed evidence of contact between the two players and that the referee was not in a good position to judge," Taylor said. "The referee called on the physiotherapist and I'm amazed he should have done that if he thought there was no contact. I feel it is impossible for referees to act as God, judge and jury on the question of an injury to a player."

"But the commission agreed with the referee and considered Gordon feigned injury. We strongly denied that. We all know things happen in football but if the FA was looking to make a point this was not the case to do it with, bearing in mind Gordon's reputation."

Several witnesses were called to support Durie including the Tottenham trainer,

Dave Butler, his coach, Doug Livermore, the club's chief executive, Terry Venables, and the Premier League secretary, Mike Foster, who was watching the match.

Jonathan Crystal, a Tottenham director, who did not give evidence, said: "We consider the finding an unjustifiable slur on one of the country's leading players and find the decision perverse. The club hope his good name and reputation will be restored on appeal."

Durie's ban is likely to be held over if an appeal is lodged. Taylor added: "We are convinced Gordon does not deserve his reputation to be stained in this way."

Pearce was prepared to attend in support of Durie but Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, was reluctant to release him so near a match day.

Pearce said last night: "I went into a tackle on Durie and, to be fair, it was a foul. He went down then I went back up again and ran at me. He bounced off me and I didn't do a thing but he went down again as though injured."

"I hadn't a clue whether he was hurt or not but fortunately for me, the referee was close by and saw exactly what happened."

The commission, comprising Geoff Thompson, the chairman, Leslie Kew and John Ryder, issued a statement which read: "The commission accept that according to film evidence, contact may well have occurred between Mr Durie and Mr Pearce."

"After taking into consideration the film evidence, the evidence of the match officials and the evidence called in support of Mr Durie, the members are of the opinion that contact between the two players did not justify Mr Durie falling to the ground as he did."

"The referee was justified in stating in his report that G. Durie was cautioned for what I considered the feigning of an injury."

"The members are therefore satisfied Mr Durie is guilty of misconduct."



In full swing: Norman drives during his winning round for Australia against Thailand in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews yesterday

## O'Connor ready to answer Americans

By MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTY O'Connor Jr today finds himself in another confrontation with Fred Couples after an extraordinary rules wrangle in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews.

O'Connor is "bitterly upset" at being criticised for reporting Park Nam-Sin for playing the wrong ball in their first round match and disturbed that the Americans have taken it on themselves to champion the Korean cause following allegations of sharp practice.

Couples claimed that the incident involving O'Connor, which happened on Thursday, was "not kosher". He said: "I'm not saying Christy pulled a fast one but I think he would be pretty upset if it had been called against him."

O'Connor accused Park after he completed the 17th hole, where he had hit a second ball from the tee after assuming that the first had gone out of bounds.

Officials agreed that Park was in breach of Rule 27-2, which states: "The player shall inform his opponent that he intends to play a provisional ball. If he fails to do so and plays another ball, such ball is not a provisional ball and becomes the ball in play."

Park's crime was to play his

first ball, which led to him being disqualified under Rule 15-3 for playing the wrong ball and to the Korean team being virtually ruled out of the competition.

Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team that beat Korea 3-0 yesterday, said: "You don't want issues being decided like that in international competition. You want it decided by golf. It left a bit of a sting. We don't want a grudge match but I think the whole thing was a bit too much."

O'Connor insisted: "Does Tom Kite want an open season where we just play golf and forget about the rules. His comments don't surprise me — this is the American way. I think they are trying to annoy us — it's the American tactic."

"Fred Couples and I are good mates but if he raises this matter with me, I will defend my actions to the hilt. As far as I can see, all they are trying to do is stir the pot."

"The incident with Park upset me but the decision I took against him was 100 per

cent for the team. It doesn't surprise me that the Americans chose to put Couples against me and I know he's never beaten me."

O'Connor, of course, struck that majestic blow with a two-iron at the 18th hole at The Belfry in 1989 to beat Couples in the Ryder Cup. He also pointed out yesterday that he outscored the American when they were paired together for the first two rounds of the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1990.

Ireland, however, face a daunting task because, even if they defeat the United States, they could still be eliminated from group one by New Zealand, against whom they lost 2-1 yesterday. Frank Nobilo produced the best golf of the week to beat Roman Rafferty with a 67 to a 68.

Elsewhere, Scotland took a firm grip on group three by defeating France 3-0 with Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomerie, who scored 70 and 71 respectively, once again playing golf of the highest calibre. Steven Richardson scored 70 to help England secure their second point in group two and another win against Spain today will take them through to the semi-finals tomorrow.

Australia, who beat Thailand 3-0, are the strong

favourites to win group four, although Heinz-Peter Thuel kept alive Germany's hope of creating an upset by beating Ernie Els, of South Africa, at the first extra hole, where he holed from ten feet for a birdie.

Meanwhile, Richard Zokol, of Canada, introduced a new variation of the Scottish dunt shot by using a five-wood to pitch and putt into and on the huge, undulating greens of the Old Course. Zokol, who used to practise his golf while wearing a Walkman stereo set, beat Anders Forsbrand to help Canada overcome Sweden, the defending champions.

Zokol said: "I'm always willing to try new things. I'm the sort of guy who doesn't mind tampering with tradition."

"My caddy has christened this one the links wedge shot. It is a very manageable club to play the shot with and I would urge others to try it. It won me the match today."

Zokol holds his hands just below the grip of the three-wood and he used the club no fewer than five times, including at the 18th, where he ran the ball through the valley of sin from 50 yards out. He also used it as a putter at the 14th hole, where he "bladed" the ball from below the hole to close to the cup.

## Leeds-Rangers blackout

MILLIONS of football fans in southern England will be unable to watch the European Cup match between Leeds United and Rangers next Wednesday.

Thames and TVS have opted out of the Independent Television (ITV) deal to screen the second round, first leg clash live from Ibrox. They will screen highlights later in the evening.

It is the same in Scotland, where the game cannot be shown because Heart of Midlothian are playing Standard Liege in the UEFA Cup.

The Thames decision was based on viewing figures for Leeds' first round game away to Stuttgart.

They did not broadcast the return match at Elland Road but a spokesman said yesterday: "We had only ten complaints."

The spokesman said: "We have taken on board that this is an all-British match and that there are a lot of Scots living in the area. But Thames loses its franchise at the end of the year and so we are maximising profit during the last few months."

Clubs may be asked  
to cut ticket prices

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LEADING football clubs may be asked to consider cutting their admission prices in an attempt to halt plummeting attendances. Ticket levels are to be examined as part of an investigation into spectator habits, which is being launched in conjunction with the Football Association.

"People have less money in their pockets during a recession and it is not getting any cheaper to watch football," Mike Foster, the Premier League secretary, said. "Some clubs, like Ipswich, have kept prices sensible but others have got to look at their pricing policy and set levels accordingly."

Coventry City have even gone a stage further. They will give away 2,000 tickets to the unemployed for their match against Chelsea at Highfield Road next Saturday.

"This is a gesture from the players and officials of the club to give our local unem-

ployed a special day," Bryan Richardson, Coventry's vice-chairman, said. "We know how much this club means to a lot of people who, through no fault of their own, cannot afford to attend all our games. West Ham United tackled the attendance problem by cutting Upton Park admission prices this week after a poor turn-out for the visit of Sunderland last Sunday."

"This is not just a problem for the Premier League," Foster said. "Apart from Peterborough and Newcastle, the picture seems even worse in the Football League. It is a national malaise which affects other sport and business, too."

A total of 14 of the 22 Premier League clubs show drops in average attendances compared to last season. Arsenal's average crowd is down 24 per cent to just over 24,000 and Manchester United's down 30 per cent to just over 31,000.

Value of a  
course in  
a million

Taipei There are roughly 400,000 golfers here in Taiwan and 70 courses; none, I suspect, is quite like the Sunrise golf and country club high in the hills south-west of Taipei. It is the pet project of Hsu Tien-Ya, a construction tycoon of considerable means, and even he was uncharacteristically coy when asked how much everything had cost. "Very expensive," he said, before admitting the mind-boggling sum of US\$230 million.

The original plan was for 36 holes but Hsu likes space and decided not to cram Robert Trent Jones Jr, his chosen architect, and encouraged him to create an expansive 18 holes. The clubhouse is huge — Americans here for the women's professional world team championship have seen nothing like it and even the Japanese seem im-

pressed — and there is a hotel as well.

Meticulous attention to detail included training caddies from scratch — all are young women, average age 24, and educated to at least senior high school standard — and elevating what many locals perceived as a menial job to a sought-after position.

Membership costs over £200,000 but weekday green fees are only about £53. There are 328 members, including 50 women on an equal basis, chosen by a committee. Who chooses the committee? "I do," Hsu said.

## Unsung praises

A branch of the tennis circus is in town for the Pacific club international men's open, which starts today. Sandon Stolle (son of Fred), who won a tournament here in May, is the highest ranked player, at No. 63 in the world. No. 64 is also here and does not sound like a man for the musically inclined. He is Shuzo Matsuo, Japan's leading player and a hero at home, but he has a flaw: he travels with a portable karaoke machine.

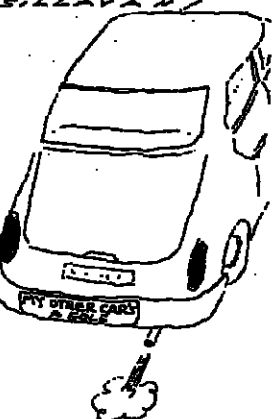
PATRICIA  
DAVIES  
Sporting Diary

Defective hearing and local pronunciation led to the happy discovery that there is not only karaoke but also croquet on offer in Taipei, the country's bustling capital.

The game is played by a few, generally elderly, stalwarts, who enjoy a few hoops in the park in the balmy early mornings that we are assured do occur here.

## Missing driver

Back to golf... owing to some lack of communication, Taiwan are without their best player in the Sunrise Cup. The redoubtable Tu Ai-Yu, who has won the Japanese order of merit seven times since 1983, is playing in Japan this week because, she said, she had not received a formal invitation. Tu, 38, has won over 300 million yen (£15 million) and 25 cars in her career. She says she'll become a car company boss when she retires from golf.

Martial  
artistry

It is not only the caddies who are educated in Taiwan or, more formally, the Republic of China (ROC), which boasts a literacy rate of over 90 per cent.

Cheng Yi-an, one of three young women to win a gold medal for the country in taekwondo at the Barcelona Olympics, where it was a demonstration sport, is off to the national Chengchi university to study business administration. She begins her classes on Monday.

Other Taiwanese taekwondo competitors are at present winning more gold medals at the student world championships in Mexico; in the Asian rankings, Taiwan are second behind Korea, the country in which the sport originated.

It is a fighting art with an aesthetic side — enthusiasts insist the movements of jumping and attacking, kicking and leg-swinging, waiting and defending, can be graceful.

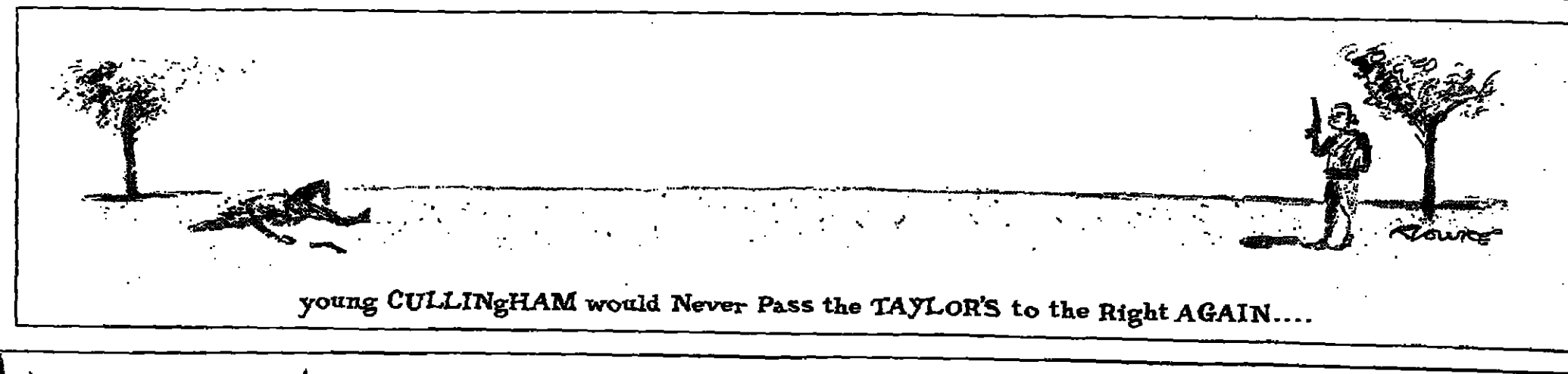
Growing  
ambitions

Shooting hoops is another popular pastime in Taiwan, although the country's tallest basketball player, a man named Hsu Tong-Ching, is only two metres tall. That, at 6ft 6in, is a little small by comparison with the United States Dream Team's standards.

Still, the Taiwanese managed to finish third in the Asian Games tournament behind South Korea and China.

Baseball is more the Taiwanese bag. It is the national sport so the people reckon and, in Barcelona, their team took the Olympic silver medal behind Cuba.

The nation's passion apparently stems from an epic victory some 20 years ago when their Little League team travelled to the United States and beat the Americans at their own game. Since then, unlike their basketball players, it has just grown and grown.



young CULLINGHAM would Never Pass the TAYLOR'S to the Right AGAIN....

TAYLOR'S PORT  
BEST taken Seriously





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# WEEKEND

# 3

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

## John Major: my view from the Bridge

Chelsea FC has been the prime minister's passion since he was 12. Here, exclusively, he recalls his boyhood heroes and the fickle swings of fortune

When I stand at the despatch box in the House of Commons, on the receiving end of a stream of colourful criticism, I realise how the Chelsea players must have felt in the darkest days of disappointment at Stamford Bridge, on the receiving end of many a sharp-tongued fan. And as I sit in my office with a row of red government boxes confronting me, I wonder how a prime minister can be expected to find time to be a football fan. I also think how tempting it is to leave affairs of state behind: even the dreariest of 0-0 draws on a wet afternoon in December can seem attractive in comparison with those red boxes.

If scepticism comes readily to politicians, it comes especially easy to a Chelsea supporter. After all, I have nearly 30 years behind me of high hopes at the start of the season, fading into disappointment with a string of frustrating results by January. It started well enough. My first season at the Bridge was the now legendary championship season of 1954-55. Chelsea were perhaps the obvious side for a boy from Brixton to follow. Yet my introduction to the sport came more slowly than for most. I was 12 years old before I finally made it to the terraces.

One of the first games I remember was against Wolves in April 1955, when we were close to sealing the championship. One of the Sillett brothers, Peter, who used to play at left-back (his brother, John, was on the right), scored the only goal from a penalty, after Billy Wright had punched the ball over the bar. I remember he scored an unusually high number of goals for a full-back, mainly from the penalty spot or with sweetly struck free kicks. His penalty against Wolves was put past the international goalkeeper, Bert Williams, before a 75,000 crowd, one of the largest ever seen at the Bridge. Following that, there was no looking back and the championship was duly won.

Chelsea then treated us to the best ten seasons in the club's history. There were some good years in the League, with third places in 1964-65 and 1969-70, but the period is memorable for Chelsea's Cup glory: League Cup winners in 1965; FA Cup runners-up in 1967 and winners in 1970; and, finally, success in the European Cup Winners Cup in 1971. There were times then when the words of Harold Macmillan seemed to echo for all us fans; it really did seem that we had "never had it so good". By the mid 1970s, however, we were on the slide again and Chelsea's problems seemed to mirror the country's. As Britain turned to the International Monetary Fund to bail out our economy, so Chelsea had to go cap in hand to its bankers. The club was saved from bankruptcy in 1976 only by a 12-month moratorium with its creditors. The upturn in Chelsea's fortunes in the 1980s was, like Britain's recovery, long overdue.

The most memorable young player spotted and recruited by Ted Drake was, of course, Jimmy Greaves. I was at White Hart Lane to see his debut, at the age of 17, on the opening day of the 1957-58 season. Jimmy began his prolific goal-scoring career, that very day, in a 1-1 draw. He scored five goals in a match for Chelsea on three occasions. I was lucky enough to be there on one of them and to be entertained, over the years, by so many spectacular goals of his. Two assess enabled him constantly to



Team spirit: personally committed to Chelsea, the PM encourages football enthusiasts nationwide

**FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION I**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CHelsea	37	9	4	5	9	6	47
WOLVERHAMPTON	35	11	5	3	5	6	79
Portsmouth	34	11	3	3	5	7	42

The league table before Chelsea (under Ted Drake, far left) versus Wolves (captained by Billy Wright, left); the young Jimmy Greaves (top left)



I still vividly remember many of the great names of that period. Ted Drake had assembled a fine collection of players in the short period between his arrival at Stamford Bridge and the championship victory. Roy Bentley, by then coming to the end of his career with Chelsea, was, I recall, the club's leading scorer for eight consecutive seasons, a record no one has bettered. Then there was Jim Lewis, one of many amateur players who played for Chelsea down the years. He shared the left wing with Frank Blunstone, a bargain buy from Crewe Alexandra a couple of seasons before. Chick Thomson and Bill Robertson swapped the goalkeeper's jersey throughout that championship season. Finally, right-winger Eric Parsons recovered from a carriage operation to play a vital role in that championship side. That season was his most prolific as a goal-scorer, but he was also particularly adept at laying off balls for Roy Bentley to slot home. He was one of only two players to appear in every League game that season.

In many ways, there is a close similarity between football and politics. Abrupt swings of fortune are common in both, although there are, thank goodness, fewer teams to beat in politics. After our championship victory, we endured a succession of mediocre seasons and a rather unexpected drop, in 1962, into the second division. Bouncing back after just a year,

conjure goals out of nothing: his ability to control the ball and beat a string of defenders; and his knack of finding himself just where he needed to be, as the ball was played forward or crossed.

The main burden of rebuilding a successful team, following Ted Drake's departure, fell to the controversial Tommy Docherty. In the same way that Ted Drake had

acted as a breath of fresh air for fans in earlier days, so Docherty seemed to do just that for us young fans in the early 1960s. Propelled rather unexpectedly into the manager's office when Drake finally left, he not only had to learn the ropes fast, he also had to teach them to his young team. The promotion-winning side of 1962-63 is the youngest the club has ever fielded. Docherty's success relied in no small part on the partnership he built with Dave Sexton, whom he recruited almost immediately as coach. The genesis of the most famous Chelsea side in

its history grew from that pairing. Despite the successes of the late 1960s, things were not as settled as they might have been at Stamford Bridge. Docherty had always been an unpredictable genius and began increasingly to come to blows with the rest of the club management, and it came as no surprise to us when he resigned. Given Dave Sexton's close involvement in the building of the side, we were pleased to see him return. During much of this period I followed the club less carefully, mainly because I had been posted abroad by my employer. It could take some time for results to filter through to Nigeria from London.

One of the last games with Docherty in charge was the unsuccessful Cup final in 1967, when we were easily beaten by Tottenham Hotspur. It did not take long for Dave Sexton's organisational skills to pay off. In only his second full season in charge, Chelsea swept to the Cup final and, despite being the less favoured team, beat Leeds in a memorable Old Trafford replay. I clearly remember the strength of that particular side, with Bonetti protected by a fearsomely strong defence in the shape of Webb and McCreadie, Harris and Dempsey. Hollins and Houseman had to face

the challenge of Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles, as intimidating a midfield as it was possible to find. But they diligently distributed the ball to Baldwin and Cooke on the wings or to Osgood and Hutchinson up front.

The following season saw our finest period in European football. Our route to the Athens final of the Cup Winners' Cup included the defeat, in the semi-final, of Manchester City, who were in the competition by virtue of having won it the year before. The final against Real Madrid took place before the days of penalty shootouts: so, when the game was not won after 120 minutes, the team had to stay on in Athens to finish the job two days later.

Throughout many of those years, I inevitably concentrated on developing my political career. It was not necessarily an advantage to someone seeking election to a rural seat in East Anglia to be a follower of Chelsea. But I was fortunate to have no direct conflict between club and constituency. With Peterborough and Cambridge the only local sides, my support for Chelsea has rarely interfered with my constituency interests.

I have been able, then, as a Member of Parliament, to maintain my interest in Chelsea. I was present at many of the games during the 1980s when their resurgence began. I particularly recall the promise shown in the 1983-84 season, when we gained promotion as champions for the first time.

Obviously, my ability to attend games has been constrained by the callings of government business.

Nevertheless, I still go as often as possible and have attended about half a dozen Chelsea games since becoming prime minister. Even on the busiest of government engagements, I make sure someone is on hand to pass me the results.

The 1992-93 season has seen the establishment of the Premier League and the start of a new era. It is clear that a great deal of additional money will be available to Premier League clubs through television and other commercial developments. I personally hope that a significant proportion of these new resources will be used to improve grounds in line with the recommendations of Lord Taylor, rather than fuelling an already over-inflated transfer market.

I am generally more optimistic than many soccer fans, and I look forward to the Premier League and other changes with less scepticism than some. And yet, as I said at the outset, scepticism comes easily to a

Chelsea fan. I take refuge, then, in the cliché that we all start level on the first day of the season. And within us all is a feeling that this season is the season for our team.

● Taken from *We'll Support You Anyway*, a collection of 24 essays by non football writers in aid of the Child Poverty Action Group to be published by Duckworth on November 5 at £7.95. It will be available from most bookshops. Otherwise send a cheque made payable to the Child Poverty Action Group for £8.90 to Alcock, 89 Southgrove Road, Sheffield S10 2NB.

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## Major as a manager? Ask Greaves and Docherty

Jimmy Greaves: "When I started at Chelsea in 1957 I was 17 and I was paid £17 a week. Nobody had a TV, a car or a washing machine, but nobody was out of work either, not unless you wanted to be. We were always an entertaining team, we scored lots of goals and we let lots of goals in.

"One of the reasons why we got such tremendous crowds is there were no other distractions — on a Saturday afternoon you went to football and that was it. There were no videos or shopping precincts. I can remember thousands of people walking from the station to the stadium along the road because there were so few cars.

"Football is untouched by everything. Or thinks it is. Managers around the country are trying to work out why attendances are falling and they can't see what's staring them in the face — there's a recession going on and people can't afford to go. That's the obvious reason. Football has divorced itself from economics. In that sense, John Major may have made a good football manager.

"But the government is out of touch with reality. I don't know why he's pushing for Europe and defending the ERM when everything is against it. He's the

manager of the country, but I've always disagreed with managers.

"I like John Major. He's been an unlucky man. But the government hasn't exactly covered itself in glory. The team is in desperate trouble, we're heading for relegation, and yet we're still playing the same system and using the same players. They should be bringing on the reserves or buying some new men and listening more to their supporters. We need to play different. We're not winning, we're not even drawing, in fact, we're having the stuffing knocked out of us. Look at

Anfield: it's the same with Liverpool. But they're changing, they've got to.

"Footballers are notoriously right-wing. I don't know any left-wingers, except the ones that play in that position, and there aren't too many of them these days. Kick or be kicked — that's the rule. All sport is based on cruelty and humiliation. There's no Mr Nice Guy in sport. Everyone takes the advantage if they can. And there's probably no Mr Nice Guy in politics either. We have to change everything, otherwise we'll all end up in Division Three — if we're not there already."

● Interviews by Andy Martin

Tommy Docherty: "The prime minister is like a football manager — the only difference: he's got a guaranteed four-year contract. He can have three bad years and only one good year and still get re-elected. A soccer manager has three bad weeks and he's out. Your employers demand success overnight. In my opinion, whatever government is in power, they're no good. They promise you the moon and when they get in they do damn all. At least Chelsea were entertaining."

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## FILM

**LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF** (18): Leos Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. Tense on spurs, and a real movie movie. Denis Lavant, Juliette Binoche. Lumière (071-836 0691).

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U)**: Sumptuous Disney cartoon fairy-tale, blessed with skilled animation and attractive Broadway-style songs. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 915574) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



**Glitter: Kruger-Taylor and Hannan, Strictly Ballroom**

**GAS FOOD LODGING (15)**: Emotional lives of a waitress and two daughters in New Mexico. Good-looking, well acted. Fairuzza Balk, Brooke Adams, Ione Skye; director, Allison Landes. Micro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

**LULU (18)**: Occupational therapist Warren Beatty falls for Jean Seberg's mental patient. Splendid revival of Robert Rossen's beautiful last film (1964). ICA (071-930 3647).

**LOVERS (18)**: In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril details her lover's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly directed by Vicente Aranda. MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Minerva (071-235 4225).

**OTHELLO (U)**: Orson Welles's dynamic version of Shakespeare's tragedy now restored. Welles as Othello, dazzling images galore. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

**SPOTSWOOD (15)**: Gentle, pleasing Australian comedy, with Anthony Hopkins as an efficiency expert battling with an outlandish moccasin factory. Director, Mark Joffe. Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Plaza (071-497 9999).

**STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG)**: One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Excellent, intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice. Co-stars Sonia Kruger-Taylor and John Hannan. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

**MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Renoir (071-837 8402) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).**

**THUNDERHEART (15)**: FBI agent Val Kilmer rediscovers his Indian heritage in South Dakota. Engrossing thriller from director Michael Apted. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6149).

**UNFORGIVEN (15)**: Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resummit his lethal skills. Marvellously resonant, reflective Western. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Empire (071-487 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Notting Hill Coronet (071-227 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP (15)**: Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson as basketball court artists in Los Angeles. Fresh, funny Americana from Ron Shelton. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trenchard (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Plaza (071-497 9999) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**WUTHERING HEIGHTS (U)**: Orthodox trudge through Brontë country, with a miscast Cathy (Juliette Binoche) and a variable Heathcliff (Ralph Fiennes). Just the occasional spark. Director, Peter Kosminsky. Empire (071-487 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trenchard (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Plaza (071-497 9999) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

## THEATRE

## LONDON

**ARTISTS AND ADMIRERS**: Sylvester Le Toze plays a Russian actress spurning a lecherous prince (Christopher Benjamin) in Ostrovsky's affectionate comedy — a new staging by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm.

**ASSASSINS**: A new Southend musical on the unlikely theme of men who killed US Presidents. Sam Mendes's production re-opens this snug studio theatre. Donmar Warehouse, Egham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens Oct 29, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

**DRAGON**: Christmas holds already. Uzi: Spitting Image and a reggae band work their magic on Yevgeny Sharov's fairy-tale with claws. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Thurs, 7.15pm; opens Nov 6, 7.15pm; then in repertoire, with morning and afternoon performances.

**THE DUTCH COURTESAN**: Marston's turbulent city comedy. The title nearly says it all but merchants and murderers are also involved in some unusual intrigues. Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Opens Mon, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

**KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN**: Chita Rivera is the vamp in Harold Prince's production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on the celebrated play about fantasists in a prison cell. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Previews tonight, Mon, 8pm, mat today, 3pm; opens Tues, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, Sat, 3pm.

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III**: Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's slightly puzzling play. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Wed, next Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, next Sat, 2.15pm. Final performances.

**MAKING IT BETTER**: The refurbished Criterion re-opens with James Saunders's intriguing play from Hampstead: lust, treachery and ambition revealed as an English couple harbour two Czechoslovakian spies. With Jane Asher, Rufus Sewell. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Previews Tues, 8pm, opens Wed, 7pm; then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

**RADIO TIMES**: Tony Slattery as a wartime radio star whose show is heading for disaster. New musical built around Noel Gay's songs. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-495 5040). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

**THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE**: Terrific performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous starlet in Jim Cartwright's play. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

**WHICH WITCH?**: This musical originated in Scandinavia as a concert work and has now been developed into an opera-musical, based on a 15th-century tale of witchcraft. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street, W1 (071-467 1181). Previews tonight, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm (subject to change).

**BIRMINGHAM**: The Rep takes to the road with its tenth Community Tour. Jonathan Oliver in *The Devil's Only Sleeping*. Did the men just released from prison commit murder or is the explanation more sinister? Solihull College, Chelmsley Wood, Wed, 8.30pm; Form College, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs. Further information from Birmingham Rep box office 021-236 4455.

**GLASGOW**: Wild and powerful revival by Philip Prowse of Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth*. Citizens, Gorbals (041-429 0022). Tues-Sun, 7.30pm.



**Pride of place: Pompeo Batoni's painting of Lord Haddo at 'The Swagger Portrait'**

**LEEDS**: Gwen Taylor and Brian Protheroe in Albee's roller-coaster drama of emotional games: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Previews Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm; Opens next Sat, 8pm.

**MANCHESTER**: National Theatre's 8P-sponsored tour of *Billy Liar* (director Tim Supple) here for one week. Next dates: Coventry, Burton-upon-Trent. Contact, Oxford Road (061-833 9833). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm.

**MANCHESTER**: Major production of James Baldwin's harrowing drama of racial murder, *Blues for Mister Charlie*. With Nicholas Le Prevost. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061-833 9833). Preview Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

## MUSIC

## CLASSICAL

**ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK MEMORIAL CONCERT**: A tribute to the Polish-born composer who spent the last 30 years of his life in England, and who died a year ago this month. The London Music under Mark Stephenson perform a programme that includes excerpts from Panufnik's *Arbor Cosmica*, his *Violin Concerto* (with Krystof Smieszna the soloist) and his *Concerto for percussion, timpani and strings* (soloist Evelyn Glennie). Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**LONDON SINFONETTA**: In one of four concerts celebrating the pioneering contemporary music ensemble's 25th anniversary, the Sinfonietta under Elgar Howarth is joined by the Sinfonietta voices for a programme of music by Peter Maxwell Davies (*A Mirror of Whirling Light*), Harrison Birtwistle (*Verses for Ensembles*) and Nigel Osborne (*Chorals*). The concert opens with a new work by the young composer Benedict Mason. Queen Elizabeth Hall (as above), Tues, 7.45pm.

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE**: Boundaries between chronological areas of the repertoire continue to be broken down. Practitioners of historically-aware performance are bringing lessons learnt playing baroque and earlier music to bear on works by classical and later composers. In tonight's concert Nikolaus Harnoncourt, whose career was built on early music, conducts a programme of works by Beethoven (*Symphony No 1*), Haydn (*Violin Concerto No 2*), Maurice Strakosky (the soloist) and Schumann (*Symphony No 3*). Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), tonight, 7.30pm.

**OPERA**

**JULIUS CAESAR**: Handel's treatment of the story of Caesar and Cleopatra, one of the undoubted masterpieces of baroque opera, is performed in English in a new production by the German director Willy Decker. Counter-singers Michael Chance and Christopher Robson sing respectively, Caesar and Ptolemy; Joan Rodgers is Cleopatra. Samuel Bachli conducts. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), Wed, 7.15pm.

**THE RAKES PROGRESS**: John Cox's delightful festival production, with David Hockney's wonderful sets, is revived for Glyndebourne Touring Opera by Aidan Lang. The cast includes Anne Davidson, Barrie Bartle, John Hall, Steven Page and Angela Hickey. Ivor Bolton conducts. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), tonight, Mon, Thurs, 7.15pm.

**WEXFORD**: The small town on Ireland's southeast coast hosts what is arguably the world's most enjoyable and enterprising opera festival. This year's programme of operatic rarities comprises Mascagni's whimsical drama of the French revolution, *Il piccolo Marat*, *Gli equivochi* (The Comedy of Errors) by Stephen Storace, which boasts a libretto, after Shakespeare, by Lorenzo Da Ponte; and the splendid and unjustly neglected melodrama *Der Vampyr* by the German Romantic Heinrich Marschner. The three operas can be seen on consecutive evenings, and there is a lively supporting programme of recitals and concerts. As well as exploring obscure areas of the repertoire, the festival, under the direction of Elaine Padmore, can be relied on to turn up an exciting crop of young international singers. Theatre Royal, High Street, Wexford, Ireland (010 353 33 22144), from Thurs to Nov 8.

## ROCK

**SMOKEY ROBINSON**: The soul supreme who recorded a host of classics on Motown in the Sixties starts out on his first UK tour for more than a decade. Demageo, Northampton (0604 24811), Fri, 7.30pm.

**THE SAW DOCTORS**: This Irish band, a huge success in their home country, bring their boisterous blend of rock and folk across the water for a tour culminating at the Briton Academy next Saturday. Academy, Manchester (061-275 2930), today, 7.30pm. Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544), Tues, 8pm.

**HUMMINGBIRD**, Birmingham (021-236 4236), Wed, 6.30pm. **BS2000**, Bristol (0272 28514), Thurs, 8pm.

**THE ORB**: The postmodern duo promises an impressive light show to augment its ethereal New Age techno music. Polytechnic, Newcastle (091-232 8761), today, 7.30pm. Bonkers, Aberdeen (0224 642662), tomorrow, 8pm.

**BURROUGHS**, Glasgow (031-557 6969), Mon, 8pm. Institute, Birmingham (021-643 7788), Wed, 8pm. Academy, Brighton (071-326 1022), Fri, 9pm.

**THE QUIREBOYS**: Straight-ahead R'n'B from these old-time rockers whose Sixties sound recalls The Faces at their rawest. University, Leicester (0533 555166), today, 8pm. Lees Cliff Hall, Folkestone (0303 253193), Mon, 7.15pm. Town and Country Club, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Tues, 7pm. Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544), Wed, 8pm. Queen's Hall, Bradford (0274 392712), Fri, 7.30pm.

**JAZZ**

**TOMMY SMITH SEKETE**: The talented Scottish saxophonist embarks on a tour to promote his blistering new album, *Paris*. Adren Boult Hall, Birmingham (021-236 2392), Thurs, 7.45pm.

**MACEO PARKER AND ROOTS REVISITED**: Runked up jazz from the man who provided James Brown with his celebrated "JB horn sound". City Hall, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Wed, 8pm. Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031-668 2019), Fri, 7.30pm.

**BARBARA THOMPSON'S PARAPHERNALIA**: The stylish saxophonist plays with her fusion group. Foyer, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-538 8891), tomorrow, 12.30pm.

## SALEROOMS

**TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY**: Sotheby's Book and Map sale opens with a section of Bond certificates, a market that has been out of fashion since the boom a decade ago. There are also strong sections of art reference and travel. 10.30am and 2pm each day. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 8080).

**TUESDAY TO THURSDAY**: Auctioneers of country house contents will have their work cut out this week, especially on deciding which to attend on Tuesday. From 10.30am that day Christie's Scotland will be in action in Edinburgh at the grandest, Strathclyde House, County Meath, while Anderson & Garland will be dispersing the principal contents of Elston Tower near Otterburn in Northumberland. At 11am Phillips Oxford join in with the residual contents of Barton Abbey, Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire. Sotheby's have given themselves two days at the late Sir John Musker's Shadowwell Park, Telford, Norfolk beginning at 10.30am on Wednesday and Thursday. Christie's, 164-6 Bath Street, Glasgow (041 332 8134). Anderson & Garland, Marlborough Crescent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091 232 6278). Phillips, 39 Park End Street, Oxford (0865 723524). Sotheby's (as above).

**WEDNESDAY**: There are paintings and watercolours of Greece, the near and Middle East and the Antipodes at Sotheby's, 10.30am, and a section of European and Oriental carpets and textiles begins at 11am. The painting sale includes a paint box which belonged to the last survivor of the Bounty mutineers (up to £800). Sotheby's (as above).

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**: Unfortunately the market in Islamic works of art is more troubled by outside politics than most, but this could allow for bargains at Sotheby's sale of Islamic and Indian art, manuscripts and miniatures, Thursday 11am and 2.30pm, Friday 11am. Sotheby's (as above).

## EXHIBITIONS

**ALLAN RAMSAY 1713-1784**: Ramsay is one of those artists who constantly impress with one or two pictures in mixed shows of British portraiture, and are always predicted to emerge enhanced from a much-needed retrospective. Now that retrospective is here, transferred from Edinburgh, and visitors will be able to judge for themselves, comparing his Edinburgh period with his London period (as court painter to George III). National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Jan 17, 1993.

**THE SWAGGER PORTRAIT**: One thing that Ramsay's portraits seldom do is swagger, hence perhaps his relative neglect in the age of Duveen, when American patrons in particular liked something obviously impressive. There has never until recently been any lack in British painting of portraits ready to supply that particular need. Van Dyck was the founding father; his followers in the tradition range from Lely and Kneller to Sargent and Augustus John. These pictures are full of pride in position and possession. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, until Jan 10, 1993.

**RICHARD SIERRA CANVAS DRAWINGS**: The sculptor has been making "canvas drawings" for 20 years in the margins of his major sculptural work. They are made out of Belgian linen, covered with thick layers of black paintstick, and cut to shape as required on site. This show constitutes Britain's first opportunity to see this side of Sierra's work. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 6075). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Nov 15.

**WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TIBET**: More than 160 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries are brought together for this huge new show of Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day and financially supported by The Times. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7488). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Dec 13.

**THE ART OF ANCIENT MEXICO**: A selection of the finest Mexican art with the earliest exhibits dating from ten centuries before Christ. Exhibits range from austere statues of gods and goddesses to animal paintings. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144). Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed, 8pm), until Dec 6.

**NORFOLK PORTRAITS**: This remarkable survey of regional portraiture ranges in time and style from Hilliard to Francis Bacon, and in subject matter from royalty to gamblers, prime ministers to fishermen. Castle Museum, Norwich (0603 223624). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Nov 29.

## DANCE

**SWAN LAKE**: The Royal Ballet launches its new season with Tchaikovsky's old favourite, a sign of things to come in a season heavily reliant on the tried and true. Thursday's opening night cast features the pairing of Darczy Bussell and her new Hungarian partner, Zoltan Solymos. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). Thurs, 7.30pm.

**THE GREEN TABLE**: One of the most popular — and powerful — ballets of the 20th century enters the repertoire of the Birmingham Royal Ballet as part of the 60th anniversary celebration of Kurt Jooss's anti-war satire. Created in 1932 in the early days of Nazi Germany, *The Green Table* stands as a stark reminder that things, after all, haven't changed. Presented as part of a mixed bill that also features Ashton's masterwork *Symphonic Variations*. Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm.

**DANCE LIMBRELIA**: Britain's largest dance festival is in full swing this week with one of its most diverse programmes in years. There's still time to catch two of the best of British, the Sibhan Davies Dance Company at Riverside and Shobana Jeyasingh at The Place. For many, though, the week's highlight will be a visit by Merce Cunningham, the grandfather of American post-modern dance, who is making rare appearances in both London and Northampton. Sibhan Davies: Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (081-748 3354), tonight, 7.45pm. Shobana Jeyasingh: The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), tonight, 8pm. Merce Cunningham: Denon, Northampton (0604 24811), Tues, Wed; Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800) Fri, next Sat, 7.45pm.

## BOOKINGS

**PRINCESS IDA**: Provocative film-maker Ken Russell, working with conductor Jane Glover, is producing the English National Opera's new staging of the rarely performed Gilbert and Sullivan opera on sexuality and female emancipation. Soprano Rosemary Johnson heads the cast. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), opens Nov 14.



**Pioneer: celebrated British cellist Beatrice Harrison**

**BEATRICE HARRISON CENTENARY CONCERT**: The birth of the pioneering British cellist is celebrated 100 years to the day. Harrison was not only the first British cellist to achieve an international reputation, but also to appear at Carnegie Hall and had the eccentricity of playing duets with the nightingales in her Surrey garden. The concert is performed by guest John Loughran and cellist Julian Lloyd Webber playing works dedicated to her (*Darius's Sonata* and written for her (*Britten's Sonata* in C). Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), Dec 9.

## VIDEO

**CAPE FEAR (C, 18)**: Demonic ex-con Robert De Niro terrorises Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller; a fine black comedy until sets in. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis. 1991.

**DANCES WITH WOLVES** (PolyGram, 15): Indians, buffalo, sweeping landscapes, plus a star-director who takes himself too seriously. The four-hour version of Kevin Costner's epic, released in a package with a commemorative book and a soundtrack CD. Only available from W.H. Smith, 1991.

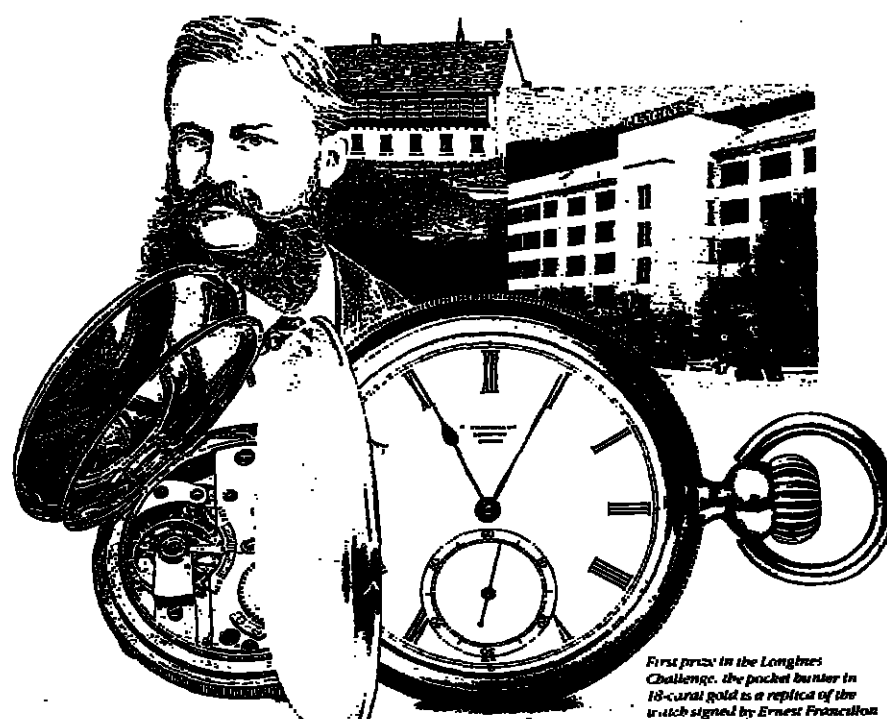
**JANE CAMPION SHORTS** (Cannes, 15): Passionless Moments, A Girl's Own Story and Peef: three typically off-kilter shorts from the early Eighties by the acclaimed director of *Sweetie* and *An Angel in My Face*.

**SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY** (Artificial Eye, U): An elderly painter's family comes to visit one summer Sunday in 1912. Gallic prettiness galore, but death and disappointment lurk behind the sunlight. Subtle pleasures from director Bertrand Tavernier, with Louis Duxec, Sabine Azéma. 1984.

**Film: Geoff Brown**: Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music: Opera: Ian Brunskill; Rock: jazz: Stephanie Osborne; Dance: Debra Crane; Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor; Video: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Karl Knight; Salerooms: Huon Mallafieu.

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# Why Dilly and I have been flailing around in the barn

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

It is quite common on this farm for us to indulge in outmoded agricultural practices, but when we are employing techniques described in a book published in 1865 as being "antique and primitive", there is an uneasy feeling of having stepped farther back into time than is quite safe. But I had no alternative. We have a towering sack of sheaves of corn which, once thrashed to remove the grains from the straw, will be ready to be sold. My prospective customer, a miller, asked for a mere half-a-hundred-weight of the corn for testing.

There were two ways of fulfilling his request. The first was to set up the thrashing machine. But this is not to be undertaken lightly. This magnificent creature demands time to manoeuvre into position alongside the stack, the best part of a morning to oil and grease her innermost parts, and six or seven men to feed her with sheaves, catch

the grain, handle the straw and bag up the chaff. To put all those wheels into motion for a single bag of corn would be like setting up the scenery for Wagner's Ring and then only singing the final chorus. Anyway, the thrashing machine has a long and convoluted intestine which takes some filling, and the modest number of sheaves I was contemplating thrashing would hardly provide enough flow to get any corn out of the other end. So I decided that we would flail the corn. We would spread it out on the barn floor and hit it severely with a stick till it was forced to yield its precious grain. But where to find a flail and, more importantly, a man who knew how to use it? A flail, research revealed, is a hinged



stick usually of ash or thorn; one part is 5ft long and held in the hand, the other part, about 3ft, does the beating. The two are hinged with a thong of untanned leather or preferably eelskin. Nor is it merely a matter of "flailing around", which has come to mean wild, haphazard movements. "Four or five women," I read, "range themselves in a circle upon their knees and beat in short sharp strokes following one another in rapid succession around the circle." Alas, I have never been the kind of man who has four or five women always handy. All I had was my friend Dilly. Nor did I have time to hunt eels or cut ash, so we used sticks. Nor does our barn have the dimensions of a cathedral, like the



one described by Thomas Hardy with "a wooden thrashing floor in the centre formed of thick oak, black with age and polished by the beating of flails for many generations". Nevertheless, as we bent to

the ground, barn-doors open to disperse the chaff and cool our brows, time slipped backwards a century and a half. We hit till our arms ached but the rate at which the grain flowed was

pitifully slow. "How much d'yer want?" asked Dilly after half an hour. "Four stone," I replied. "Are you jokin'?" he replied. "There's about a cup-full on that floor."

I never believed that upper arm muscles had so much ache in them. I tried flailing standing upright with the corn on the ground; then to ease the pain I knelt and held the sheaf in the other hand so that at least I was encouraged to continue by the sight of bullets of grain hitting the ground. However, hit them too hard and the grain bounced off the sheaf and into the dark corners of the barn to be devoured by mice. Every ten minutes we swept the cloth, poured the corn into a sack and put it on to the scales. After two hours we reached the two stone mark. Halfway there.

I read that the flail had many local names; it was sometimes a "stick-and-a-half", a "drashtel" or a "Joseph-and-Mary". More to the

point, I further read that men working in pairs should keep up a strike rate of 30 flails per minute, producing 12 bushels of wheat a day. A bushel is about 65lb, so our achievement of half a hundred-weight in less than four hours was quite respectable.

Four hours of this work was as much as I fancied. It is well to remember that this was usually the work of two men for the entire winter; and when the mechanical thrashing machines came to rob them of their labour, they roamed in gangs seeking to destroy them.

But on the basis of one afternoon's experience, ours need not fear the lighted match. Nor must we delve too far into tradition, for we soon discover that those who lived in pairs were greater men than we. I do not think we shall repeat the flailing experience. As Dilly said as he headed for home, "too much slap, and not enough tickle".

## Sacred and precious stones

Our graveyards are giving up their secrets, reports Joanna Gibbon

Graveyards seem to be attracting much wider attention these days than the usual hunt for ancestors. The likes of Richard Bell, for instance, may well be found on hands and knees, peering at the stone into which an epitaph is etched, identifying what sort it is and noting any erosion.

Mr Bell is a member of Rockwatch, a club formed earlier this year by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's Watch organisation for young people, and the Geologists' Association. Hunting about in graveyards is one of its practical projects.

"It is geology on the doorstep," says Wayne Talbot, Rockwatch's organiser. "One of the problems is that most people think this is a subject which can only be understood if you visit the Andes or the Himalayas." The aim of Rockwatch's search is to chart the different types of rock used as gravestones, and see how quickly they have weathered. The advantage of gravestones is that they are dated. Eventually, the survey will pinpoint those areas of Britain where rates of erosion are higher due to air pollution or weather.

Often the researchers find that stones from the 17th and 18th centuries have been carved from locally available rock, such as sandstone or limestone. More exotic marbles and granites reflect changing times in the Victorian era, when the railways widened horizons.

Mr Bell says that slate seems to last the longest, and be least affected by acid rain. But he is philosophical: "Every stone, however hard, will be worked on by the elements eventually. So despite what is said when you buy a granite headstone, even that will decay in time."

The graveyard at St Mary's church in Whitby, north Yorkshire, beside the abbey ruins on the cliff edge, is one of Mr Bell's favourites. "It is so atmospheric. The gravestones are made mainly from local Jurassic sandstone, which was



Levelled by time: Richard Bell notes the condition of gravestones at St Mary's, Whitby, where the sea air hollows and erodes the lettering

formed 160 million years ago at the time of the dinosaurs. The North Sea air has eroded and hollowed the gravestones beautifully. Some of the lettering has disappeared, but the layers of colours are superb shades of brown and orange, like desert landscapes of the Grand Canyon."

Another keen observer of gravestones is Harriet Frazer, who established Memorials by Artists three years ago. Born out of Mrs Frazer's frustration with the difficulty of finding a monumental mason to carve what she wanted on a headstone for her stepdaughter, the company acts as an agent for artists and carvers who can recreate 17th and 18th-century excellence, or the later craft of Eric Gill. Some monumental masons and

vicars approve only uniform-sized, polished dark granite headstones, placed in straight lines so that the grass can be mown easily, she says. "It is so dreary. What is lovely about the old graveyards is that everything is higgledy-piggledy."

Mrs Frazer says she loves 18th-century headstones with their flourished lettering, sometimes embellished with a carved skull and crossbones, symbols of death, or with emblems of the dead person's trade, such as a wood-carver's mallet or a farmer's sheaf of corn.

She prefers customers to choose indigenous limestones, sandstones and slates. And she notes the beginnings of a revival in epitaphs, and imaginative testaments: a tiny carved car and a little prayer commemorating a ten-year-old

boy; an organ in bas-relief for a musician; a bee skep and gardening tools for a countrywoman.

Another recent stirring among the headstones of rural churches is the Living Churchyard, a movement which aims to increase and preserve Britain's wildlife. "We feel the 20,000 churchyards in this country are very valuable natural wildlife sanctuaries," says Eve Dennis, the scheme's development officer at the Church and Conservation Project.

The scheme encourages allowing churchyards to fall into a semi-natural state, without turning them into a wilderness. "Some people take a bit of convincing, especially if they have a managed, municipal park approach," Mrs Dennis says. The first aim is to encourage wild

grasses and flowers to grow — attracting in turn insects, butterflies and birds. So far more than 1,000 parishes have become involved and, in turn, other projects have emerged. In Norfolk, a survey has discovered nine flowering species that occur only in churchyards, including meadow saxifrage with its pretty white flower. One enthusiast has also found that 500 of the 1,500 lichens in Britain can be found in churchyards.

● *Rockwatch, RSNC, The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JR (0522 544400). Memorials by Artists, Snape Priory, Seaxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1SA (0728 888934). The Living Churchyard, Church and Conservation Project, The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ (0203 696969).*

## Naked evil is everywhere

BUSH TELEGRAPH  
Simon Barnes

There is something beautiful about vultures — they are superb fliers but only from the neck down. The nasty black ruff would excite admiration, but the naked head spoils it. The marabou stork is — to be utterly anthropomorphic — the ugliest bird I have ever seen. Black they are, but they also have a flapping pink dewlap. This, I am told, renders them sexually attractive. To me they look like the saloon-bar

bore in black jacket, white shirt, pink tie and bald head.

Hyrenas have naked black muzzles and faces, and seem to have no eyes. Their jaws — actually marvels of engineering, designed for the cracking of bones — are permanently half-open in what I cannot deny looks like a mindless but infinitely malevolent grin.

I would like to praise them for their secret life as hunters, but in the Luangwa (though not, as I say, elsewhere) they live almost exclusively by scavenging. They harass leopards and wait their turn after lions.

Their family life is extraordinary. They are dominated by females, who are bigger, stronger and tougher than the males. As a badge of status, females carry huge fake male genitalia.

Odd thing, life. But odder still is this instinctive, unstoppable reaction of disgust at the bald heads and naked faces of the scavengers. They arouse a deep, primeval instinct of fear and loathing. We want our birds and our beasts to be decently covered with feathers and fur. Their nakedness offends.

What other creature of questionable habits roams the world with a bare face and, often enough, a bald head as well? The only species of mammal or bird that comes to mind is homo sapiens, the allegedly sapient ape.

We recoil from the most human characteristic of birds and beasts that have a vital role in the ecology of the bush. Do we recoil from the beasts themselves — or do they reflect something a little bit disgusting in the human condition? Homo sapiens: *che brutto!*

● *Simon Barnes is staying with Savanah Trails, Luangwa National Park, Zambia.*

Feather report

## What's a nice gull like you doing in a place like this?

Autumn brings the seagulls inland. They fly screaming behind the plough as it uncovers the moist earth, or line up on the crossbar of a newly erected goalpost, all facing into the wind. These first arrivals are mostly black-headed gulls — some of them coming from British coasts and moors, some of them from as far away as Poland or Russia.

They are somewhat different from the other British gulls. They are very light and easy on the wing, dipping up and down almost like terns. The white line along the front of their wings easily distinguishes them; in winter, the black (actually chocolate-coloured) hood from which they take their name has dwindled to a dark patch behind the eye. They waddle like pigeons on their red legs across a rubbish dump; then they sweep up into the air and are transformed into figures of grace.

At night they flock ceremoniously from miles around to roost on reservoirs and large lakes; and they are a particularly fine sight in the half-light of dawn, as they swoop on to farms and playtime fields.

Occasionally a Mediterranean gull that has drifted across from the Middle East joins these winter flocks. Dedicated gull-watchers will spend hours scrutinising every member of a crowd of black-headed gulls just to see if one of them has a dark rather than a white leading edge to the wings — in winter, the only way to know if they have found this scarce visitor.

Less common than the black-headed gull is the common gull. This is a more classic-looking gull, in pearly greys and whites, and is quite abundant as a breeding bird in Scotland and the north of England; in winter it is found throughout Britain, although very erratically distributed.

The common gull is a small species, like the black-headed gull, and can be picked out on the ground by its greenish legs. It stands aloof from the black-headed gulls, looking more self-assured.

Its big brother is the pink-legged herring gull, the commonest large gull in this country. It has much the same pearly-grey plumage as the common gull, but is a fierce bird, with long, powerful wings and hooked beak, that often robs other birds of the morsels of food. These

are also spirits of the dawn, both on the coast and inland, flying round and round with wild yelpings at the first trace of light, their necks stretched stiffly out as if they were some kind of primitive carving.

Many of them stay on the coast in winter, as they have less to fear from the winds and storms, but they also come inland and roost on the reservoirs, and are common up and down the rivers — though a rare yellow-legged variety that sometimes comes in from southern Europe gives gull-watchers more long days of painful searching.

A predatory gull of much the same size and build that is widespread this month is the lesser black-backed gull. This invariably has yellow legs, and also has a heavy, slate-grey mantle, which makes it look even more ferocious.

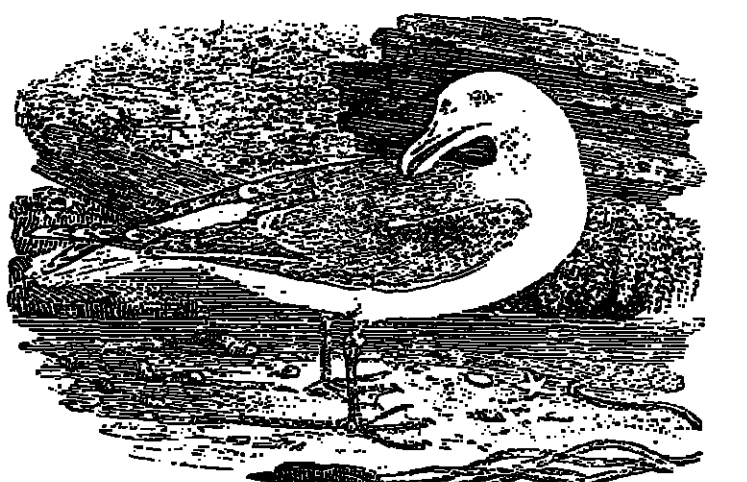
Some lesser black-backed gulls breed in Britain, but they are mostly migrants from farther north, and sometimes pass through in enormous flocks at this time of the year. Fifty years ago almost all these migrants moved on farther south, and the species was rarely recorded in mid-winter; but now large numbers remain all year.

The last of the regular gulls to be seen inland in winter is the greater black-backed gull, which makes even the lesser black-backed look innocent. It is gigantic, has a back that is really black and a yellow and red hooked beak, calls with a sinister, resonant cry, and is almost always alone.

Rarely, an enormous glaucous gull from Iceland beats along the coast, the whitest of them all. Most bird-watchers would regard it as an exceptional stroke of luck to see one. However, for some years a glaucous gull appeared every winter on the shore at Cley in Norfolk — and became such a familiar sight on the pebbles that the hardened seabird watchers who line the beaches with their telescopes and Thermos flasks never even turned their heads to look at it.

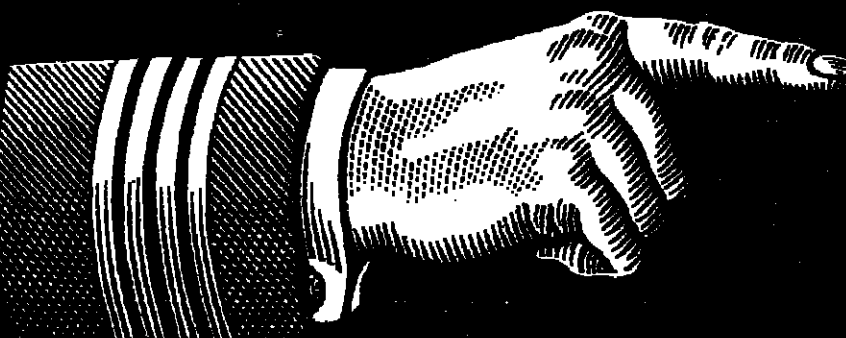
DERWENT MAY

● *What's about: Birds — look out for bramblings arriving from the Continent to feed with resident finches. Twitches — red-breasted goose at Caerlaverock, Dumfries; blue snow goose at Martin Mere, Lancashire. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222.*



Predatory: the lesser black-backed gull, discernable by its yellow legs

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# You are what you eat: dried gecko, anyone?

A key element in the success of any restaurant is the person who meets you at the door. At Hong Kong's Yat Chau restaurant, Peng Min-Kwan is more solicitous than most. Before you go to your table, he not only inquires after your health but also takes your pulse, inspects your eyes, nose and ears, and will even measure your blood pressure, or ask you to stick your tongue out at him. Then he recommends what you should eat from the 200 dishes on the menu.

With his kindly bedside manner, twinkling eyes and white laboratory coat, he looks more like a doctor than a maître d'. Which is what he is. Dr Peng is head doctor of Chinese herbal medicine at the territory's first health restaurant.

Swollen neck glands? Try number 127: soup made from chicken and sea horse.

Recovering from illness? Number 13 should do the trick: double-boiled pigeon with Chinese catapillar fungus and fish maw.

Back pains? Treat yourself to a glass of 192: three-peris wine.

Dr Peng says: "Chinese herbal medicine has existed for as long as China's 5,000 years of civilisation. It makes sense to combine two great streams of Cantonese thought — eating and concern for health. Eating is a pleasure, and there is every good reason why it should also be both healthy and even medicinal."

Most of the Yat Chau's clientele are Chinese diners who pay about £20 per head in the summer, double in winter when game is in season. One-off requests for dishes with expensive ingredients — rare ginseng, or red bird's nest, for example — bump up the prices considerably.

Japanese visitors take the restaurant seriously, and there are increasing numbers of western gnomes who sample the £10 lunch-time tourist menu. Not every item is as exotic as sea horse or gastrodia tuber. There are numerous dishes more suited to western palates, such as fried shrimps with chives ("increases virility and sexual potency") and duck with cloves and cinnamon.

## Alasdair Riley books a table for lunch and a baldness cure at a Hong Kong restaurant serving up health on a plate

mon ("good for weakness and deficiency of the spleen").

In fact, it is quite possible to treat the Yat Chau as a perfectly ordinary Chinese restaurant with an interesting menu. No-one is obliged to consult Dr Peng, or any one of his colleagues who mingle with the waiters. The menu carefully explains the ingredients and medicinal effects of each dish in both Cantonese and English.

However Chan Siu Lun, a director of the international Yat Chau Holdings empire, which encompasses real estate, publishing and engineering as well as ginseng farming and the manufacture of medicine and medical equipment, wins considerable "face" by treating his guests to the top end of the menu.

"First we have smoked fillet of duck with cinnamon and jelly fish," he says. "Good for the stomach. Then chicken soup with prawn and sea horse. Good for the kidneys. Followed by sautéed prawns with lily flower bulbs to keep us young and pretty."

"After that we shall have steamed chicken with ginseng and mushrooms which, apart from tasting wonderful, is ideal for the lungs. Then fried rice with walnuts and a red seed from an Inner Mongolian fruit which is good for the eyes. To finish, a steamed bun with a red paste filling which activates the spleen."

With the meal we drink ginseng tea and, in deference to myself, wine made from fleece flower root, walnut kernel and angelica root which, it is claimed, slows down the

balding process and keeps grey hair at bay.

In deference to my host, however, I refrain from asking for a glass of Number 196, gastrodia tuber wine, which dispels wind and cures numbness of the limbs.

The Yat Chau is a first-floor restaurant in Hong Kong's Central district, sharing an entrance with the Yat Chau Chinese herbal medicine shop and clinic on the ground floor. As well as providing ingredients for the kitchens upstairs, it is where Dr Peng's colleagues diagnose patients, dispense ancient wisdom and prescribe combinations of herbal cures from hundreds of jars and drawers which line the walls.

At the bottom of the range are dried gecko lizards at £3.80 per 37.5g, and American farmed ginseng at £4.50 per 37.5g; at the top, wild Chinese ginseng at a price high enough to make anyone ill: £6,500 per 37.5g.

In between, at the same weight, come ground deer penis at £60 and blood-tinged bird's nest, made from the saliva of the sea swallow, at £80.

Just as therapies such as acupuncture and reflexology, previously relegated to the fringe of established medicine, are gaining ground in the mainstream, so western science is beginning to take Chinese herbal medicine seriously. In laboratories around the world, scientists are studying more than 5,000 herbs, roots and plants from the Chinese folk medicine chest, most of which have never been chemically analysed before.

"It took me five years of hard study before I was allowed to practise herbal medicine," Dr Peng says. "It seems quite natural to me that beneficial herbal ingredients should be part of a healthy diet. Some dishes at the Yat Chau are designed as specific cures for certain illnesses, others promote better health in general, replenish energy, nourish vital essences, help you lose weight or keep your youthful complexion."

"No-one is suggesting, though, that you can come to the Yat Chau restaurant once and be cured of whatever is wrong with you after one meal. We have regular customers who come several times a month, but we also have people who are curious who come once, just for the food and not for a cure. If they want, they can take away a booklet which tells them how to cook our dishes at home."

Before we pick up our chopsticks, Dr Peng wishes us "yum sing" — good health. And when he suggests eating duck, don't call him the local quack. He's heard it all before from the gnomes who have been patronising his restaurant since it opened last year.

He himself provides an almost perfect recommendation for his restaurant. He has been practising Chinese herbal medicine for almost 30 years but still has the complexion of a 20-year-old. And three-peris wine has ensured a fine thatch of glossy black hair.

● The Yat Chau Health Restaurant is on the first floor of the Yat Chau Building, 262 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong (545 8688).

Chinese herbalists practising closer to home include:

● Chi Clinic, Riverbank House, Putney Bridge, London SW6 4JD (071-371 8717).

● Dr Ke (081-741 9264).

● Lotus Healing Centre, 129 Queen's Crescent, London NW5 4HE (071-284 4614).

● The Chinese Medical Centre, Manners Chambers, Manners Street, Bath, Avon (0225 483393).

● Hong Yuan Chinese Herbal Shop, 22 Rupert Street, London W1.



Dishes of the day: Dr Peng Min-Kwan displays some of the contents of his herbal medicines chest

**'To finish, we will have a steamed bun with a red paste filling which activates the spleen'**

## Helping to unscramble the moral egg code

Where are barn eggs laid? In Sainsbury's they lie neatly between the free-range eggs and the fresh eggs. They fall between those categories in price too (size 3 at £1.44 a dozen, with free range at £1.59 and fresh at £1.16), and in customer conscience.

The barn egg is a newish marketing concept, although eggs produced in this way have been around for ever. Three years ago someone had the idea of selling them as barn eggs and they have steadily increased their sales ever since. Barn eggs normally carry a legend such as: "Laid by hens in the safety of a perchery."

In a supermarket or a grocer's shop an egg described simply as fresh is an egg from a battery hen. It is certainly fresh (normally getting on to the shelves within 48 hours of being laid) and it is always low-priced. Cheap protein for poor people. Since poverty is one of the few growth areas in 1990s Britain, that is important.

A free-range egg, according to industry definition, has to come from a hen that gets some of her food by naturally pecking away at

the great outdoors. But the outdoors is not always that great.

We tend to think of free-range hens like something out of Rupert Bear's Nutwood: white splashes on a green hillside, a woman broadcasting corn from a kirtled white apron.

In fact the range is a bit more restricted than that, with a maximum of 1,000 birds per hectare, which is 405 to the acre. The birds must have access to the outdoors in daylight hours and must also have indoor accommodation available. In practice many of them stay indoors most of the time.

A barn egg is laid in a barn or perchery, an enclosed building where the hens can move about indoors. The industry standard allows a maximum of 25 hens per square metre of floor space, which sounds terribly crowded. But remember a barn has a vertical

dimension and many of the hens perch high up. Even so, when I walked through a hen barn not long ago it was like going down Oxford Street two days before Christmas.

The Vegetarian Society does not recognise the barn egg as an ethical food. "We regard the system as intensive animal keeping," says Chris Oliviant of the society. "We can only endorse free-range eggs."

There is no difference between free-range and battery eggs when it comes to nutrition, and no discernible difference in taste.

The whole free-range versus battery argument was rehearsed recently in *The Archers*. In the microcosm of Ambridge the village debated

whether Martha's shop should only sell battery eggs. Cathy Perks arranged a blind tasting session in *The Bull* and no-one could tell the difference between battery and free-range. That seems to be true outside Ambridge, too.

There is sometimes a difference in look between a cooked battery egg and a free-range one. The yolk of the free-range egg is often paler. Beta-carotene, a natural derivative of vitamin A and the stuff that makes carrots carrot, determines the colour of the yolk. But although beta-carotene is useful to the egg — it helps to stop it going mouldy inside its shell — the amount of it in a yolk makes no difference to us, says Catherine Collins of the British Dietetic Association.

She also says that within reason it matters little how many eggs you eat. There are still GPs who advise

you not to eat more than three a week in case your cholesterol level soars, but that is no longer the standard medical view. "The medical journals reported the case of a man in New England who ate 80 eggs a day and had a perfectly normal cholesterol level," Miss Collins says, adding rather unnecessarily: "Of course, he did have a psychiatric history."

The salmonella wars that brought down Edwina Currie, then junior health minister, are long since over, although you are still advised not to eat undercooked eggs or to make your own mayonnaise with raw yolks.

Egg consumption has returned to its pre-salmonella scare levels — something under two-and-a-half eggs per person per week, almost all of them brown, because we don't like naked white eggs, and most in the middle sizes 2 and 3.

The ethical argument still goes on, though. Justice for hens or cheap protein for the poor?

You pay your money and you takes your moral stance.

FRANK JEFFERY

## NOILLY PRAT

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### Piquant Noilly Sauce

Recipe devised by Fiona Nelson-Tunne Marie School of Cookery

- 1½ tablespoons caster sugar
- 3 tablespoons good sherry vinegar
- 5 tablespoons Noilly Prat
- 5 fl oz of chicken or fish stock
- 4 tablespoons double cream
- ½ oz unsalted butter

Melt the sugar in a small heavy pan. Cook over a medium heat until the sugar is golden brown. Add vinegar and reduce by boiling for 1 minute. Add the Noilly Prat and reduce by half. Add the stock, bring to the boil and reduce by half. Add cream and simmer until it is sauce like in consistency. Serve with a flat white fish such as plaice or sole. (Serves 4)

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## Keep your spirits up

As gin loses some of its alcohol kick,

Jane MacQuitty considers the alternatives

GORDON'S mean move of demoting its gin from a flavoursome 40 per cent alcohol to a wispy-washy 37.5 per cent, and charging the same price for it, has not been popular with drinkers or the trade.

A 2.5 per cent drop in gin's alcohol content may not seem much, but it makes a difference to taste and that all-important alcoholic "lift" spirit drinkers look forward to at the end of a working day. The alcohol present in spirits serves the same purpose as it does in wine, highlighting the flavour and delivering body, backbone and a useful alcoholic kick. Lower the alcoholic content of wine or spirits, and you immediately lower the impact that drink makes on your tastebuds.

Sadly for white spirit drinkers, Gordon's is the giant of the gin trade, with at least half of the market, which means that almost every other gin firm will follow its lead. Already most own-label gins have dropped to 37.5 per cent, as has Sir Robert Burnett's marmoset and angelica-scented White Satin, and Gillybees. So far only Beefeater, with its distinctive orange peel fla-

vour, is standing firm at 40 per cent alcohol.

According to Gordon's, the extra 3.1 per cent profit it makes at the lower alcohol level will be used to shore up the ailing gin business; in particular, to promote gin to younger drinkers in their late twenties.

Perceived today as slightly dull and old-fashioned, gin is none the less a classic pungent, juniper-flavoured white spirit that is here to stay. The best gins start with maize, not molasses, and these 100 per cent grain spirits usually state this on the label and taste smoother and finer than their cane competitors.

The finest gins are also made by distilling the spirit through the dried botanicals, or flavouring elements, such as juniper, coriander, angelica, lemon and orange peel. Lacklustre gins just have the required essence added to the neutral base spirit.

With spirit sales falling, the white spirit men are relieved however that the 8 per cent drop in gin and white rum purchases is not as bad as blended Scotch, down 12 per cent last year. Only vodka, down by just 4 per cent in



Pure thoughts: white spirits are faring better than brown

1991, a year in which its sales overtook gin for the first time, appears to be riding the recession.

Despite these decreases, white spirits have for some time been growing at the expense of brown (predominantly whisky). So what are the possibilities facing disenchanted gin drinkers? Vodka,

ranging in alcohol level here from 37.5 per cent up to 57 per cent, is the obvious choice.

Good vodka, especially the real thing from Russia or Poland, is far from being the neutral, flavourless spirit its critics claim. The finest grain versions have nothing in common with the surgical spirit odours and harsh, fiery pal-

ates of those Russian-sounding but British-made vodkas, often distilled from molasses rather than a superior grain like rye or barley.

Although vodka can be made from almost anything, including potatoes, first-class 100 per cent grain vodka does not burn your mouth but delivers sweet, smooth, creamy, grain flavours whose fresh, yeasty-smoky style comes through as clearly on the nose as on the palate.

White rum, due to its sugar cane and molasses base, is unlikely ever seriously to challenge the superior white spirits of gin and vodka, made from grain. However, the clean, light, sweet, fruity flavours of white rums, such as the 37.5 per cent Bacardi, go down well with understanding drinkers who want alcohol in a simple, easy drinking form.

Tequila, made in Mexico, mostly from the pineapple-shaped heart of the large, spiky, blue agave plant, has

not had the success here, so far, that the spirit trade anticipated. Almost all of this powerful, pungent, 38 per cent earthy white spirit sold here probably goes into a margarita.

My vote for a new, strange and worth-experiencing-once white spirit goes to Brazil's cachaca, made from sugar cane. I first tasted this unrefined 40 per cent white spirit in a Latin-American bar in New York. Its rocket fuel, cheesy, wet cane taste grows on you — especially if you drink it, as I did, mixed with the juice of a whole lime and served over lots of crushed ice. Known as a Caiparinha, the Brazilians drink vast quantities of this mixture.

Whatever your choice of white spirit, beware the own-label versions. They may be cheaper than the branded competition, but many are made from molasses rather than grain, and have been cheaply fermented.

## Best buys

● Vladivar Gold 100% Proof (57%) 100% Pure Grain Harrods £17.75. Easily the best of the British-born "Russian" vodkas. This high proof vodka has lovely, smoky scent and a deep, smooth, yet punchy palate.

● Stolichnaya Russian Vodka (40%) Asda £11.55, Tesco, Safeway and Davisons £11.89.

Still the standard by which all great vodkas should be judged: soft, creamy, smoky finesse and flavour. 100% pure grain.

● Tanqueray Special Dry Export (47.3%) Sainsbury's £14.19, Tesco £14.29. Majestic Wine Warehouse £14.95.

Made by the same folk as Gordon's Gin, this 100 per cent grain gin offers a solid, powerful, peppery gin taste that is not so sweet or obvious as its more famous juniper and angelica-scented green sister.

● Pirassununga 51 Brazilian Cachaca (40%) Tesco £9.99.

Not everyone will share my liking for this strange, helly, oily white spirit, whose burnt, earthy flavours go down best with lots of crushed ice and the juice of a whole lime.



# Exotic fruits and roots

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, recalls the flavours of her year in Nigeria



MY diary for one day in July 1966 describes the naming ceremony for baby Oluwoye, the son of my neighbour Janet, who was a colleague at St Monica's Grammar School in Ondo, Nigeria, where I was a teacher with Voluntary Service Overseas.

Resonant Yoruba names — Bolanle Olubusola Abieke — were conferred on the child as he was presented with symbolic gifts of kola nuts, fish, salt, palm oil, meat and pepper. This was followed by a lunch of *akara*, *ebe*, *egusi* soup, *moyin-moyin*, Jollof rice, goat, liver and chicken.

It was certainly the gastronomic high point of my year in Nigeria. The rest of the time I lived on yam, plantains and groundnuts, with the occasional pepper chicken and rice when I was in funds. I was glad of the peppers, as it would have taken me a long time to adapt to eating cassava, yams, tannia, fari and all the other starchy roots that are not potatoes.

I was glad, too, of the papaya tree which grew outside the kitchen door. Breakfast was half a papaya and fresh lime, and I used the leftover skins to tenderise beef.

Ondo market was noisy. Cattle bellowed in the pens and high-life music was played at full volume. The market traders, all women, touted their wares in fine voice. I would usually part with a few *kobos*, or copper pennies, for a small, dusty heap of tomatoes, or a larger pile of oranges. It was only years afterwards that I realised how lucky I was to live on green, untreated, unsprayed oranges for that year.

As I write about the market, I can still smell the street food, my favourite of which was *akara*, small, savoury deep-fried cakes of bean paste in which there was buried mean shreds of chili; very filling and very good. They make good "small chop", snacks to serve with drinks.

Some of the other recipes will do

well on a buffet, particularly the chicken Jollof rice, which came originally from the Gambia but has long been a party dish in Nigeria. *Egusi* soup, too, is popular for entertaining. Hulled melon seeds, from *Citrullus colocynthis* of the water-melon family, are an important ingredient. If you cannot get them, shelled, unroasted pumpkin seeds are a good substitute. Tea-bush and parmling are wild herbs with a pungent flavour much used in West African cooking; they are not unlike basil, which I have suggested as a substitute.

The first two recipes are based on a paste made from ground, raw cowpeas or black-eyed beans. First, the beans should be hulled or skinned. To do this, soak the pulses for ten minutes in a bowl of cold water and then rub handfuls of the beans between the palms of your hands several times to make sure that the coats are rubbed off. Fill the bowl with water again and scoop out the skins, which will float to the surface. Repeat the process until all skins have been removed.

The next process depends on whether the paste is to be deep-fried, as for *akara*, or to be steamed, as for *moyin-moyin*. For the first, the beans are drained and then ground with as little water as possible to make the paste. For steamed dishes, the beans can be soaked for several hours and then drained and ground to a smooth paste in a food processor. Use about an equal volume of water to beans to make the paste. After grinding, the paste should be whisked to lighten it to an airy texture. Other ingredients are lightly folded in at the last minute so that the paste will not fall.

Palm oil is used extensively in Nigerian cooking. In its refined, concentrated form, it is a white, partially hydrogenated fat, with a texture like dripping. And like dripping, it is high in saturated fat. For frying I would use groundnut oil instead, but for flavouring and enriching, for which palm oil is also used, as in the next recipe, I might use chicken fat, butter, dripping, olive oil or even one of the nut oils.

Only palm oil, as you buy it straight from the market, thick, almost solid, like shoe polish, with a nutty flavour, will impart absolute authenticity. *Moyin-moyin*, a steamed bean paste, to which other flavourings can be added, is usually eaten with a grain dish. A spoonful of pepper stew livens it up no end.

**Akara bean fritters**  
(makes 12-15)  
1 lb/230g black-eyed bean paste, made as previously described  
1 free-range egg, separated  
warm water  
1 heaped tsp onion or shallot, finely chopped  
1 small red pepper, seeded and finely chopped, or 1 tsp dried chili flakes  
1/2 tsp salt  
groundnut oil for frying

Put the bean paste in a bowl and whisk in the egg yolk. Continue whisking, adding warm water until a light, thick batter of dropping consistency is attained. Fold in the rest of the ingredients. Whisk the egg white and fold into the mix-

ture. Heat the oil to 180C/350F and drop in spoonfuls of the batter. When browned on the underside, turn the fritters over and fry until uniformly golden brown. Remove from the oil and drain on crumpled paper towels to absorb excess oil. Serve while still very hot.

**Moyin-moyin**  
(serves 2-4)  
1 lb/230g bean paste, prepared as previously described  
2tbsp warm fat or oil  
warm water  
1 free-range egg  
1tbsp finely chopped onion  
1 scant tsp salt  
dried chili, flaked, or fresh finely chopped chili, to taste  
optional additions: cooked fish, prawns, chicken or ham (about 2-3oz/60-85g flaked, chopped or shredded), diced tomatoes, sliced, cooked okra or chopped spinach to make this a vegetarian dish

Put the paste in a bowl and beat in the oil and the egg. Whisk in enough warm water to make a batter of custard consistency (it

should coat the back of a spoon). Fold in the rest of the ingredients and spoon into oiled ramekins. Cover each with foil. Place on a trivet in a saucepan with water not touching the dishes, put on the lid, and steam until just set, when a knife-point poked into the middle emerges clean. Serve in the ramekins or unmoulded. *Moyin-moyin* is traditionally steamed in leaves.

**Chicken egusi soup**  
(serves 4-6)  
2lb/900g chicken portions  
6oz/170g dried hulled melon or pumpkin seeds  
3tbsp groundnut oil  
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped  
2 firm but ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped  
2 red chillies, for example, the conical Kenya or fingerlength Westland chili  
handful of fresh basil  
salt to taste

Chop the chicken into smaller pieces and put in a saucepan. Cover with water, bring to the boil and

skim any impurities from the surface. Lower the heat and simmer, partially covered, for about 40 minutes until the chicken is tender. Remove any bones from which the meat has fallen, together with any skin, and remove the pot from the heat to allow the fat to rise to the top. Skim off as much fat as possible and put the soup on to simmer once more, uncovered to reduce the liquid. Grind the seeds. Heat the oil in a small frying pan and fry the onion until wilted. Add the tomato and chillies and stir in the ground seeds. Moisten it with a little stock and stir to a paste. Stir this into the soup, bring to the boil, and simmer for ten minutes or so, until the soup thickens. Shred the basil and add this to the soup, and salt to taste. Serve in shallow soup plates, with bread or other starch as accompaniment.

**Jollof rice with chicken and prawns**  
(serves 6)  
1lb/455g ripe tomatoes, peeled, or 400g can of plum tomatoes  
1 onion, peeled and chopped

1 or 2 fresh red chillies  
1tsp freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 tsp freshly ground nutmeg  
4tbsp groundnut oil  
4lb/1.85kg chicken, jointed into 8-10 pieces  
14oz/400g long-grain rice  
1/4 pt/140ml peeled prawns

Chop the tomatoes and fry with the onion, chillies, pepper and nutmeg in most of the groundnut oil for five to ten minutes. Add the chicken pieces, raise the heat and cook for about ten minutes more until it loses its rawness. Pour in the rice and 1 1/4 pt/700ml water or chicken stock.

Bring to the boil, cover with a tightly fitting lid, and lower the heat as far as possible. Cook for 20-25 minutes and then remove from the heat. Fork the rice to lighten it, and then cover once more to let the flavours develop for up to an hour. Just before serving, dry the prawns, and fry them in the remaining oil for two to three minutes. Serve on top of the rice.

## Renewed apples of our eyes

Annual Apple Day on Wednesday will celebrate old favourites and a revival of unusual varieties

I said to Heart: "How goes it?" Heart replied: "Right as a Ribstone Pippin!" But it lied.

It is the wish of the small but noisy orchard preservation charity, Common Ground, that Hilaire Belloc's rueful lines should coax more than a huffed "Right as a what?" from Britain's increasingly discerning army of apple-eaters.

The Ribstone or, correctly, Ribston Pippin was once the most popular and widely grown dessert apple in the country — winning literary status not only from Belloc, but from Dickens (in *The Pickwick Papers* there appears a "little hard-headed Ribston-pippin faced man").

Though far from extinct, the gloriously scented Ribston is today known only to informed apple enthusiasts and experts (pomologists). The same goes for hundreds of other delicious and viable varieties among the 6,000 separate cultivars identified in The National Apple Register of the UK.

The annual Apple Day on October 21, first introduced by Common Ground three years ago, is intended to stop this rot. "We are trying to get Apple Day into the psychology of the country, rather like Midsummer's Day," says Sue Clifford, the charity's ever-optimistic co-ordinator who is hoping to repeat last year's inspired delivery of almost a ton of English apples to the House of Commons.

"We want people to think, 'It's October 21, it's Apple Day, let's have a great Hawthornden (a rare apple variety from Edinburgh) pie," she says.

More than 80 apple-promoting events have been planned around the country next week, from the planting of a new orchard of the Cox's Orange Pippin, near the Slough home of its 19th-century founder, retired brew-



Apple man to the core: farmer Jonathan Pollitzer would like to see more types grown

er Richard Cox, to cider-making demonstrations and tastings in Devon and Somerset, and a children's apple activity day at the Greenwich Borough Museum in Plumstead High Street on October 24.

"We're not merely looking to the past or trying to promote rare varieties of apples just for the sake of it. People want more varieties, and it's partly due to our efforts that you can fairly easily buy a St Edmunds Russet these days. Three or four years ago, you'd have been out of luck," Mrs Clifford says.

Traditional apples are becoming the chic epilogue to the autumn's dinner parties, and all the big supermarkets are competing to offer the best range of old-fashioned English fruit seen for years.

There will be more than 25 apple varieties — including Kidd's Orange, Chivers' Delight and Ashmead's Kernel, first raised in Gloucester in 1700 — available at Sainsbury's, with Safeway hoping to offer about 50, during the main October-April season.

Generally, the more uncommon apples are up to twice the

price of mass-marketed standards like Spartans (about 30p a pound).

Nature has done her best, too. It has been a superb year for Britain's apple-growers — a warm spring, rainy days in August and — the perfect finale — cool September nights and dewy dawns needed to bring out the colours of, among others, the best-selling Cox's Orange Pippin.

"The quality is sensational," says Joanna Wood, of the fruitgrowers' association English Apples and Pears. "It's a vintage harvest compared with the past couple of years, when frosty springs have been a disaster."

But is one terrific season, and the budding appetite of consumers for a Laxton's Superb, or perhaps a Lord Lambourne, enough to broaden a Cox's, Golden Delicious and Bramley-dominated market?

"To a certain extent, it's a case of why change when you've got proven winners?" Miss Wood says. "Cox's prove themselves winners year after year. But I think with the continued interest from the

supermarkets, growers will gradually gain more confidence in getting older varieties in circulation."

There are two other points that might sap the enthusiasm of our apple-growers for experimentation: the British still eat fewer apples a head than anyone in Europe, save for the Portuguese and Irish. Then there is the lesson to be learnt from the kiwi-fruit. In less than a decade, the once fashionable fruit has gone from boom to bust, from a rarity romanced by all the top chefs to a has-been at half the price it cost in 1982.

Independent apple farmer Jonathan Pollitzer who, with his partner John Wilson, runs The Appleman fruit shop in London's Goldhawk Road, is also aware of the risks of following seasonal fads.

"I only wish the sort of incentive we're seeing from the public could be reflected in the orchards. But, bearing in mind the huge costs of farming, farmers simply do grub out everything except Cox's and Bramleys. It is a terrible shame."

JODY TRESIDDER

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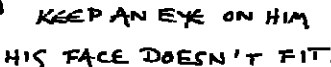
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**James Hepburn**  
tries his luck at  
the casino, with  
predictable results

Apart from the croupiers everyone seemed to be foreign. They didn't look like high-rollers, more middle or low-rollers. Most seemed



There are three games in the Golden Nugget: roulette, blackjack and punto banco. The latter is played on a table shaped like a Subbuteo stadium and, although I

I sat on the £2-minimum table between a woman speaking an eastern European dialect and a Filipino, who looked for a long time

If you play roulette for ever you will lose. The odds take no account of the zero and this gives the house an edge of one thirty-seventh. The only way to make serious money at

I sat next to a tiny old woman who grinned at me and took a long white cigarette from her handbag. On my other side was a Chinese man. I put my four £25 chips on

I had paid £19 for three hours in a place with all the passion of the booking hall at Victoria bus station. But there had been a moment . . . It could have happened.

● Gamblers Anonymous can be contacted on 071-352 3060

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# Who gets what on dosh day?

Lynne Greenwood investigates pocket money and gives the results of two surveys

**A**t Wackford Squeers's academy, Dotheboys Hall, "Youth are boarded, clothed, booked, furnished with pocket-money, provided with all necessaries, instructed in all languages living and dead". But what Charles Dickens tantalisingly did not reveal to readers of *Nicholas Nickleby* was how much pocket money the young boys received in the mid-1800s.

Almost 150 years later, pocket money still plays an important part in Britain's economy, as far as children are concerned. Ask any youngster the meaning of ERM and he or she might just say Ever-Ready-Money. But when it comes to who gets how much at what age, random research across the country shows that there is no such thing as an average.

My 12-year-old son in West Yorkshire receives £2.50 a week, after a recent rise prompted by the discovery that his 12-year-old cousin in Cheshire was 50p a week better off.

Among his friends, one 12-year-old also gets £2.50, another £5 and a third, an 11-year-old, 85p. Brothers Donald and Nicholas Gill, of Bedford, each get £2 but use their money differently. Donald, nine, is a good saver, sometimes spending pocket money on his interest in arts and crafts, while Nicholas, eight, wants to rush out and spend it, often on his collection of £1.99 model trolls.

Three ten-year-old girlfriends from Linsfield Primary School, Middlesbrough, who were fascinated by the computerised pocket-money survey at the national children's museum Eureka!, revealed similar disparities. Gemma Campbell gets 50p a week, Kathryn Hearn £1 and Hannah Tunley £2.50. All three said they saved their money for holidays, clothes and presents.

Since the museum opened in July, 5,638 children (and some adults enjoying a moment of nostalgia) have completed the survey, which is linked to *The Times* electronic mail network system for schools, Campus 2000.

The results give some indication of how much children receive and how they spend it.

Almost a third of those who completed the survey receive between £1 and £1.99, with 23 per cent getting less than £1. Sixteen per cent received between £2 and £2.99, and 24 per cent £3 or more (although some of those taking part

were adults playing the game). The days of true pocket money seem to begin about the age of seven, with those younger than that getting less than £1 a week, and last until the children are aged about 14. After that it often becomes a more adult "allowance" or is supplemented or replaced by earnings from a newspaper round, Saturday job or errands at home.

Pocket money day, as it was at Dotheboys Hall, is Saturday. When six friends, boarders and day pupils at Brontë House Prep School, at Apperley Bridge, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, got together to talk money, they made interesting listening. Graham Harrigan, a ten-year-old full boarder, whose father is stationed with the RAF in Germany, is allowed £20 pocket money a term.

Set by the school, the amount has doubled in 14 years. The money is retained by the boarding tutor and doled out sparingly when children go off on organised weekend trips, to be spent on sweets, ice-creams, souvenirs.

"I usually take about £2 if we go for a walk or swimming," Graham says. "But I try not to spend all the money during a term. I like to save some, then I might buy computer games with it in the holidays."

At home in Germany, he sometimes offers to cut the RAF lawns around his home "for about DM1.50 — about 60p".

**W**eekly boarders such as Claire Dalton, nine, are allowed to keep £7 a term at school, which is always supplemented by weekend pocket money at home. "I get £1 a week from my mum and I'll usually spend it in the park on ice-creams or going on rides," Claire says. "I save some in my money box."

Richard Matthews, an 11-year-old day pupil, had a 10p a week rise on his birthday to £1.40. As a train enthusiast, he usually spends some of this on weekend family rail journeys, but is also a keen saver. "I've got some money in my bank," says Richard, a talented crown green bowler with a few tournament successes to his credit. "I've won about £35 in all. Now I'd like to buy my own jack, which costs about £24."

Jane Purkis, nine, gets £1 a week, supplemented by a possible extra £1.40 if she washes and vacuums her father's car at the weekend. "I get more if I do my mum's, because



Economic soap-box: even in the 1950s, Saturday pocket money was a vital issue, as these Just William-like characters reveal

it's bigger," she says. Her 11-year-old brother gets his £6 pocket money monthly.

Gurpreet Midha, 11, gets £2, which she spends on sweets, pens and pencils and souvenirs from family trips. "I try to save for new, posh trainers, too," she says.

Adam Curtis, ten, who started with 20p a week aged five, now gets £1. "I go down to the shop and get the *Beano* or *Dandy*, or sometimes a computer magazine and sweets. Sometimes if I cut the grass I get an extra 20p, but it's hard work

because it's on a steep hill."

When the Halifax Building Society began its annual pocket-money survey of the under-12 members of its savers' club in 1987, the national average was put at £1.13, rising slowly each year to £1.48 this year.

The Halifax's sixth survey of more than 4,000 young people, published today, shows "a generation of hard-working, financially aware youngsters, many of whom work for their pocket money and save as much as they can".

What children spend the money

on changes with age, and there is a definite trend towards saving.

Just over half the children who completed the Eureka! survey said they saved, closely followed by those who spent the money on sweets and drinks.

For younger children, saving still means having a traditional money box at home, maybe with a bank account in which parents save for them. Many older children have their own savings account. Girls favoured saving for holidays, clothes and presents and boys

for computer games, football strips, sports activities and trips out with the family.

Younger children still spend on sweets, comics and toys, with older ones going for tapes and CDs, computer games, visits to the cinema or a football match.

When each child has completed the Eureka! survey, in about three minutes, the computer tells them: "In the time it has taken you to fill in this survey, your teacher has earned 60p. I wonder what he or she will spend it on."

## Events

### NATIONWIDE

Biggleswade's best friends. Grand exemption dog show in memory of the many different family dogs who lived at Shuttleworth between 1886-1935. The Shuttleworth Collection.

Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (0767 627288). Tomorrow 10am-4pm, last admission 3pm. £1, child 5-10 and student £2.50.

Botley bustles: Take the children to see steam thrashing and rick building, corn dolly and bee-keeping in a traditional farm environment with sheep, cows, pigs and a shire horse.

Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Brook Lane, Botley, Hampshire (0489 757055). Tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm.

Bridlington birds: The last of the season's RSPB stags and shearwater cruises to Flamborough Head and around Bridlington Bay. The trip lasts three to four hours. Check ticket availability and confirm sailing Bridlington Pier, Bridlington, Humberside. Tomorrow, 10am-5.7. child £3.50. Information and booking, 0522 535596.

Chatham ordnance day: Spectacular display with guns from the ordnance collection, explained, demonstrated and fired. The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 812551). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £5.20, child £2.60.

Lincoln big top: Chipperfield's Britain's oldest circus, visits East Anglia. Acts include high wire artists, acrobatics, tumbling and limbo dancing plus clowns, elephants and lions.

South Common, Lincoln. Today 3pm and 6pm. Tomorrow 11am and 3pm. Kingside seats £8, child £6. Grandstand £6, child £4. Tiers £5, child £3. Booking and further information, 0522 568850.

Long Melford Tudor farm: Visit an entirely organic working farm run on traditional lines with rare breeds of animals, heavy horses and donkeys, and the moated manor house, walled garden and maze. Home-made lunches and teas available. Kenwell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk (0787 310207). Farm daily 10am to 5pm until October 31, house and gardens until October 25. House, gardens and farm, £4, child £2.50. Farm only £1.75, child £1.

Taunton carnival: One of many traditional West Country illuminated carnivals begins with a barrel race and is followed by a grand procession and floats throughout the town. Collection for local charities. Taunton, Somerset. Today 6.30-9pm. Further information, 0823 274755.

Wilmston festival children's events: Monday, children's story hour: "Are you sitting comfortably?" with Daphne Owenford, formerly of *Listen With Mother*. Next Friday and Saturday, *African Jigsaw*, a fund-raising musical about life in Africa, part of the One World Week and recommended by Sir David Attenborough. Wilmston, Cheshire. Story, Wilmston Library, Monday 2pm. Free Musical, United Reform Church, Friday, Saturday 7.30pm. Tickets £2. Bookings and information, 0625 522275.

JUDY FROSHAUG

## An ABC guide to half-term activities

Whatever your child's holiday interests, indoors or out, there is sure to be something entertaining and exciting listed here

### Events

#### LONDON

Myself and Other Animals: Gerald Durrell talks about his travels around the world, including his latest expedition to save the endangered aye-aye. Book-signing for *The Aye-aye* and *I Follows*. Fleet Theatre and bookshop.

Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7. Today, 11am-5pm, signing 12.45pm. Cheese tickets available from 071 498 9242.

Trafalgar Day Parade: About 500 sea cadets commemorate Nelson's sea victory with parade, pageant and short service. Trafalgar Square, WC2. Tomorrow, 11am.

Tower Bridge exhibition: Families of up to four members visiting the exhibition about the history of the bridge get in for a special rate of £2 until the end of the year. Each group will also receive a complimentary voucher admitting one adult or child to the new exhibition opening in July 1993. Tower Bridge, SE1 (071 407 0022). Until Oct 31, 10am-5.45pm; Nov 1 onwards, 10am-4pm.

Pirates — Fact and Fiction: For children and adults, a one-day Open University course which examines the fictional presentation and actual lifestyles of pirates, including Chinese women warriors. Blackheath and J.M. Barrie's characters.

National Maritime Museum, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10. Sat Oct 24, 10am-5.00pm. Fee £2. Booking and further information 081 312 6747.

Drama workshops: Opportunity for two to 12-year-olds to learn about the theatre and how it produces the earth. The workshops, which are run by the Floating Point Science Theatre, last 20 minutes. Tickets on the day. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7. 071 498 9380. Today until Nov 1, 1.1-1.1pm. 2-12pm, 2.30pm and 4pm. Adult ticket to museum, £3.75, child £1.75.

British banknotes: An exhibition of part of the world's largest collection of British bank notes. "Treasure receipts to the pound" — the £1 million notes which never leave the notes. Bank of England Museum, 100, Broad Street, EC2, Sun. 10am-5pm. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Free.

J.F.

**A**DD to history by making your own time capsule. Collect 1992 memorabilia (an old 10p coin, *The Times* and so on), place in a bottle and bury it in the garden. What child wouldn't be enthralled by the thought of this being discovered in 100 years' time?

**B**ELIEVE it or Not is the name of Ripley's Odditorium at 9 Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, which displays "unusual things", including a walk-through tunnel that gives an illusion of wobbling, and a "lady on the beach" scene which you walk past, only to discover, as you look back, that she is no longer there. Open daily, 10am-dusk. £2.99, child £1.99.

**C**ATCH a bus and take a mystery ride locally, or a double-decker in London. Ring the Big Bus Company (071-498 9345) or London Coaches (081-877 1722) for route details and cost.

**D**RY ski. Centres include those at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, Orpington, Kent, and Sheffield. Ring the Ski Club of Great Britain (071-245 1033) to find a centre near your home.

**E**NJOY the South Bank Poetry Festival, October 30-November 3. Good evenings for teenagers include November 1, when Wendy Cope will be reading. £3. South Bank Centre, London SE1 8XX (071-928 8800).

**F**ACTORY visit. Cadbury's World in Birmingham shows how chocolate is made, and provides tours round the Cadbury estate. £4, child £3, under-fives free. Linden Road, Bourneville, Birmingham B30 2LD (021-459 9116). Alternatively, phone a local factory to see if tours can be arranged.

**G**O to the theatre. The Polka Children's Theatre is staging *The Fleetsies in Sula's Day* today and next Saturday, and *St George and The Dragon* on October 31. The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 (081-543 4896); specially for the under-fives. £3. The British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild offers free entry to its annual performance on October 31 at the Guildhall crypt, Gresham Street, London EC2. The Swan Theatre, Worcester (0905 726969) stages the *Magic and Music Show* by David Wood on October 31. £3.50. Or, write your own plays and make puppets out of old gloves/socks.



G is for Go — to the theatre the youngsters will love to see the Polka Children's Theatre shows or the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild's annual performance

**H**ARVEST by proxy. See how farmers used to steam-thresh and plough at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, near Chichester, Sussex (0243 63348). Demonstrations with vintage tractors on October 24-25. £3, child £1.75.

**I**DOLISE rugby player Will Carling's double — the latest waxwork at Madame Tussaud's. Also an updated Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. Family ticket £16.95. Tussaud's, Marylebone Road, NW1 5LR (071-465 0077).

**J**OKE around on October 24 at the Westminster Comic Collectors' Fair, Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1. 50p.

**K**ITE fly. Buy one for a fiver or make your own. Buy *Easy to Make Decorative Kites*, a Dover Publications book, £2.65.

**L**OLL in front of a film at the Children's Film Festival between October 17-25. Variety of films from Europe. National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1. £3.95, child £2.75.

**M**AKE "Vote for Women" posters at the National Museum's design/collage workshops as part of the exhibition "The Purple, White and Green: Suffragettes in London 1906-1914", at 150 London Wall EC2Y 5HN (071-600 3699). Workshops open October 27-31. Activities free; entry to museum £3, child £1.50.

**N**EWSPAPER pictures make good collages. Or get each child to cut out a sentence from *The Times*, glue it on a card and pass it to the next child who snicks another

sentence after it to make a story. The result could sound very funny.

**O**LD Sooty television/stage sets and black and white Sooty films are on display in Yorkshire as part of the puppet's fortieth birthday celebrations. Sooty's World, Windhill Manor, Leeds Road, Shipley, W. Yorkshire (0274 531122). £2, child £1.50. Closed on Fridays.

**P**AINTEBBLES. Make a mouse by sticking on string for tail and sequins for eyes. Or stick shells from last summer's holiday on a shoebox lid to make jewellery box.

**Q**UICK! Send the children to sea with courses run by the Royal Yachting Association nationwide (0703 629962).

**R**UB a brass at the London Brass Rubbing Centre or one of the many centres outside London (e.g. Windsor and Dover). For full details, phone the English Tourist

Board on 071-824 8000. The London Brass Rubbing Centre, the Crypt, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ, is open 10am-6pm (midday onwards on Sundays). Prices start at £1.50, according to which replica brass you rub. The cost includes materials such as wax and the sizes of brasses vary from 1-7ft.

**S**COUR the loft. You might well be lucky and discover a long-forgotten...

**T**ENT. Go camping in the back garden, or even the sitting-room if it's raining.

**U**NLEASH a child's inhibitions at The Fabulous Forest, Bicton Park, near Exeter, Devon (0395 68465): an indoor, soft adventure playground. £2.85 for adults and children.

**V**ISIT the Beaulieu Fireworks Fair at Brockenhurst, Hampshire on October 31. Admission

includes fair, steam engines, bands, clowns. £4, child £2.

**W**ALK round your village/town/road and make a map showing houses, fields, shops. Collect and press wild flowers en route for your nature diary.

**X**CITE the children with a ride on the Hallowe'en Special train on October 25 at Embay station museum, Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 794727). Children are encouraged to wear fancy dress. £2.50 adults and children.

**Y**UMMY! Make fudge or biscuits (under adult supervision). Shake milk in sealed jar for watch it turn to butter, then cheese.

**Z**O visit. Take a trip to London Zoo at Regent's Park before it really does close. £6, child £3.70, under-fives free. "Animals In Action" show 1.30pm.

JANE BIDDER



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## WHAT TO WEAR

# Comme des garçons... et des filles

Alice Thomson has spent years of exchanges and holidays studying what makes the French so instinctively chic, and trying in vain to copy it herself — although in one vital regard, she scents a British victory



Flea marketeers: bargain-hunting in his battered fedora, her second-hand tweed jacket



Rouge et noir in Paris: the weekend starts here for the Fiat set in comfortable red blouson and classic black blazer, his and hers chambray shirt



Tout confort: post-Pucci leggings and boots



Baggy chic: cardigan layers, cigarette pants

She saunters down the street in stretched Lycra, a linen jacket thrown over her shoulders and an immaculately clipped dog at her well-heeled shoes. Pausing for a drink at a cafe, she delicately crosses her newly waxed legs and balances a cigarette on her lips. She's neither a bimbo nor a tramp — she's French.

Casual chic is something that the British have never quite got the hang of. No matter how carefully you pack for a weekend in France, you will always be upstaged by the locals with their formidable sense of style.

The government did not have to ban shell suits, baggy leggings or last year's designer disaster — the French just don't wear them. Nor do they wear shorts in the capital or old Barbours when it rains. "Style is something we take very, very seriously," says Perrine Pasco, a French journalist who is married to an Englishman.

"If you want to be attractive to the opposite sex, then you must take an intelligent interest in what you wear. That also applies to men and women who have been married for 20 years. If you want to keep your marriage you must work at it."

But the British have continued to believe that style is being able to get away with a ten-year-old pair of trousers. Even if they do make the effort, they never quite master the art.

When my mother went on a French exchange just after the second world war, my grandmother knitted her a swimsuit complete with crocheted flowers. Arriving in the South of France with her new acquisition she was devastated. Everyone was in slinky black swimsuits.

Thirty years later, determined not to make the same mistake, she sent me off on my first exchange with a slinky new swimsuit with go-faster stripes down the side. I was mortified. Everyone was in cotton bikinis. Endless French exchanges and extended holidays later, I still haven't

grasped it. How do they do it? This seemingly effortless chic appears to be instilled from birth, when the babies play with their mothers' Chanel pearls. By eight the girls are sent off to the local école de beauté to learn how to apply their makeup and have their legs waxed. By 12 they have had their moustaches electrolysed and the boys are given their first aftershave.

"It's breeding," says Z. Herbaut, a fashion student in Paris. "We would never be so dead in anything unfashionable. As much as we like our dungarees and your bit-



Rock 'n' roll look in leather



Titi parisien all zipped

## WHO WEARS WHAT IN PARIS

● **Bon chic bon genre (BCBG):** They live in Neuilly and shop in St Germain. The men wear brown loafers, Lacoste T-shirts and flannel trousers, and throw their cotton knitted jumpers over their shoulders. Women are called *FRICs* (*foulard Hermès collier de perles*). They wear clean jeans and little jackets in navy, beige and red. It is imperative to look identical and rich.

● **Rock 'n' roll:** They shop at Cheignon Trading Post, wear leather jackets and cowboy boots and put bandannas round their dogs' necks. Women have long hair and tight-bottomed coloured jeans.

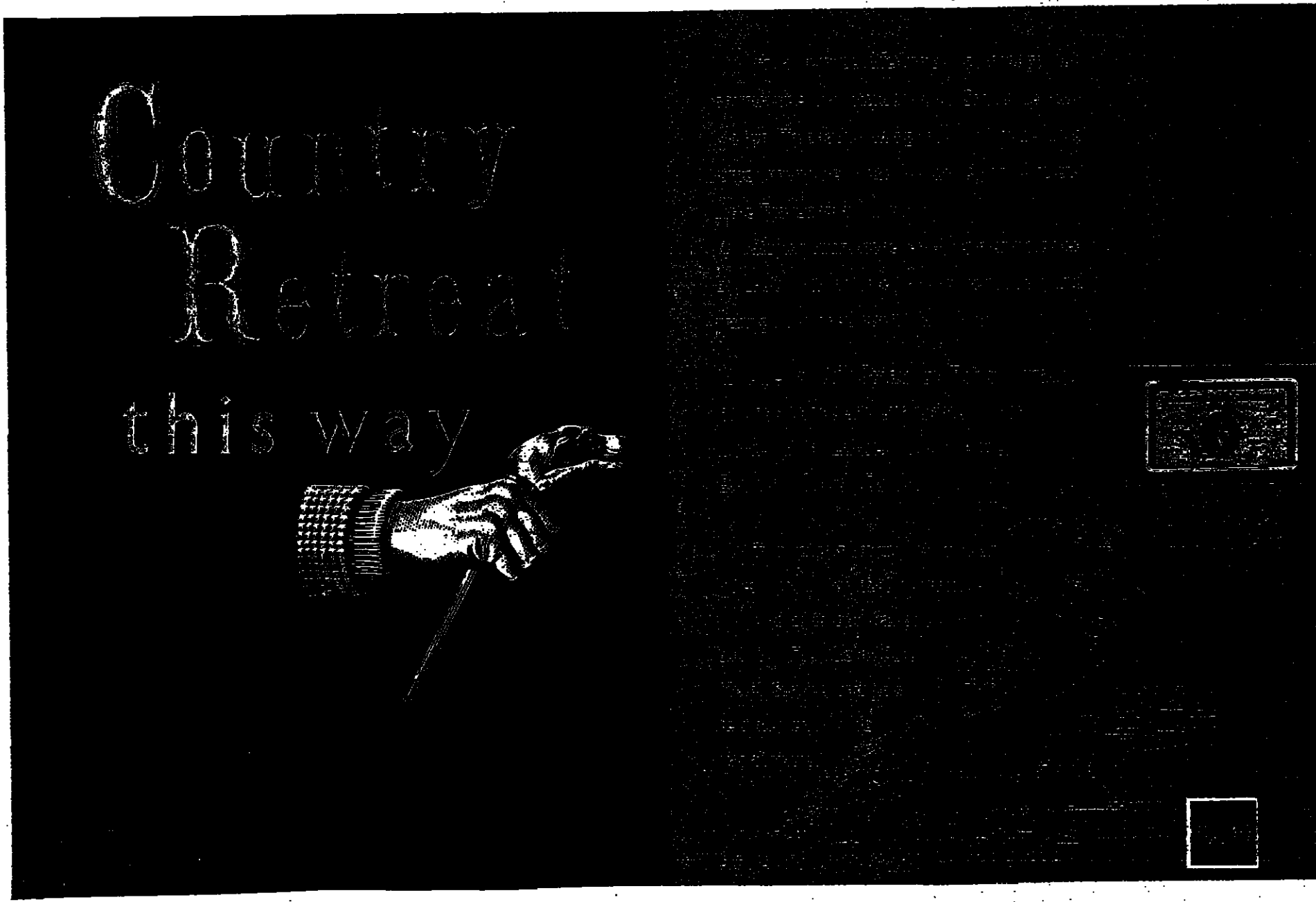
● **Rap:** Only for the under 20s. They sport Reeboks, Nikes and Jordans and wear baggy jeans, tracksuits or African pants bought in Les Halles.

● **Gaulier designer look:** Hard to imitate unless you've got the figure. Hair is slicked back and gelled. Girls wear rubber and Lycra, boys sport suits, caps and sideburns.

● **Titi parisien:** The urchin look popular among fashion and architecture students. The girls have bare legs, platform shoes, heavy make-up and long hemlines. Men wear "lorry driver" jumpers with zips up the front, berets and checked shirts, but always in pristine condition.

● **Coquette Bardot (girls only):** Underwired bras, floral above-the-knee dresses, tapered trousers and short skirts with tanned legs.

● **Toutte parisienne:** Almost impossible to imitate, this style takes breeding. Their goddess is Ines de la Fressange, they mix Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel with chain-stores and wear Hermès scarves without looking frumpy.



Country  
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# Keeping the tea in tradition

Clement Freud nibbles his way through the daintiest afternoon fare, and offers his own choice tips

## TEA

The French, to whom we tend to look for guidance on culinary matters, call it "le five o'clock" (pronounced "le fief eau cloque"). In the case of afternoon tea, they take their lead from us, for this is a uniquely British happening. Recession has hit the catering industry harder than most and minor meals have been the heaviest casualties. In the 1960s the Imperial Hotel at Torquay held tea dances every afternoon — with hot cinnamon toast and professional dancing partners, what other nations call gigolos. No more. British Rail served afternoon teas in its dining cars. Now this is served only on InterCity Pullman trains: hot toasted teacakes, sandwiches, good pastries and fruitcake.

British Airways does a first-class set tea: reception sandwiches containing dolcelama cheese and celery, prawn mayonnaise; brown bridge rolls filled with smoked salmon and horseradish; light fruit scones. Tiptree's strawberry jam and dotted cream; tea breads, carrot cake and chocolate hazelnut gâteau — but then it costs an extra £200 an hour to fly first-class.

Around the land there are places that have achieved fame for provision of afternoon teas, and retained this:

The Pump Room in Bath, home of Cobb's original Bath bun. There is a pleasing formality, music, helpful waitresses and hot toast with Gentlemen's Relish.

The Polly Tea Rooms in Marlborough should not be missed: great home-baked cakes, wonderful speciality ice-creams with many sauces. Betty's Tea Rooms in Harrogate are famed throughout the county. Pert young waitresses dressed in black and white, and casual with it, serve you rich fruitcake with Wensleydale cheese. Cakes are of high quality but tea is a meal that requires a bit of maturity in the service.

The Willow Tea Room in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, is a matter-of-fact sort of establishment on the first floor, above a shop; you are expected to know the difference between muffins, scones, crumpets and pancakes and at which times these are served. A good place to go when you have been there a few times.

Within a mile of Piccadilly Circus in London, the following establishments are considered the market leaders: Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly. There is a long passage from the main entrance in Arlington Street to the stunningly beautiful restaurant overlooking Green Park, west of the hotel. Half-way down this passage is the Palm Court: a raised area of Empire kitsch, replete with bronze candelabra, gilded angels climbing pillars, mirrors,

drapes, soft pale carpeting and delicate tables for two no bigger than a nouvelle cuisine platter. Also palms. This is what Saddam would call the mother of all afternoon tea places. This is where it began, 20 years ago, and now there are two sittings: 3pm and 4.30pm, book a week ahead, wear smart clothes. The management would very much like ladies to wear hats. The management is proud of afternoon teas at the Ritz and where other places leave service of minor meals in the hands of casual staff, here is a charismatic manager who has been in charge for 40 years; a star head waiter whose service is nearly as long.

People come in to do the "peacock walk", to see and be seen, to promenade along the finely carpeted corridor before sitting down to their meal. About 150 people a day partake of the Ritz sandwiches, excellent scones and strawberry jam and dotted cream; pastries and fruitcake. Strawberry tarts are the best-sellers. "Daintiness" is what they want their clientele to recognise, and traditional English elegance. Everything is English... except the customers and the staff.

Afternoon tea at 3pm and 4.30pm daily: £13; non-smoking (071-493 8181). Brown's Hotel, Dover Street. Here afternoon tea is taken very seriously. The management refers to its "celebrated teas", which are served on exceptionally beautiful Wedgwood china. The food is brought on a three-tiered silver cake stand: toasted and plain scones made to a secret recipe with an elusive spice on the bottom shelf with Baxter's jam and dotted cream. Next come sandwiches — triangles of sardine paste, smoked salmon, cucumber and tomato; also shiny bridge rolls filled with egg and cress. The top tier has really handsome home-made pastries: a crisp tart filled with *fruits des bois* takes pride of place among excellent almond tarts, cream eclairs and fruitcake.

The three intercommunicating rooms of the lounge look like the set for a William Douglas Home play about the upper classes. The tables are small and square, the furnishings handsome. There is paneling, an electric fan, drapes, velvet covering on the comfortable chairs. Brown's serves about 60 set teas an afternoon (the restaurant is open for high teas with fresh salmon fishcakes from 4.15pm to 5.45pm, but these have yet to catch on).

There is a dress code: no jeans or trainers, though they do not enforce this; however,

men must wear collars and ties. The hotel will lend them these things if they arrive without. The waiters are male, youngish, efficient and will take pictures of you if you desire. Afternoon tea daily, 3-6pm, £12.95 (071-493 6020).

Fortnam & Mason, Piccadilly. There are three restaurants, the most accessible up a few steps at the southern end of this shop, in which you will find more handsome jars of desirable fruit in liqueur, lemon curd and bespoke mayonnaise than anywhere in town; also an outstanding display of cheeses.

The carpet is green, looks like Astroruf. The table-tops are of yellow marble, the chairs not pretty nor particularly comfortable. Mrs Rowe, the manageress, has been there for seven years, and is motherly. A folder on each table holds the bill, which the waitress annotates with your order. Only the waitress who served you can take this and your money when you want to leave.

This is à la carte service; you can look at the display of cakes on the counter but have to remember that the prices marked thereon are for take-away: Sacher torte (absolutely first-class) costs 70p — but £1.10 if you eat it on the premises. A small pot of whipped cream sets you back another 50p.

Best-selling cake is strawberry tart. Scones, which seemed rather flat and hard, are served with Fortnum's own (or own label) jam and dotted or whipped cream. Sandwiches are available but substantial — like roast beef and horseradish, which would not be my first choice for a minor meal.

Dress is smart/casual. Average spend is about £6.50. Set afternoon teas (£8.95) are also available in this store 3-5.20pm (071-734 8040).

The Waldorf, Aldwych. Has afternoon tea dances Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in the stunning Palm Court at £19.50. Sandwiches, scones and dotted cream, pastries and cake... and, while the age of the punters is considerably greater than elsewhere, dancing classes have outings here and introduce an element of youth and jollity.

Afternoon tea Mon-Fri, £12.50; Sat-Sun afternoon tea dances, £19.50; 3.30-6.30pm (071-836 2400).

Patisserie Valerie, Old Compton Street. Has sensational cakes in the window, also soft, welcoming doughnuts shining with lemon fondant and bulging with cream. "A secret recipe, a lighter form of *crème pâtissière*," says the eldest of the three brothers who own the place.

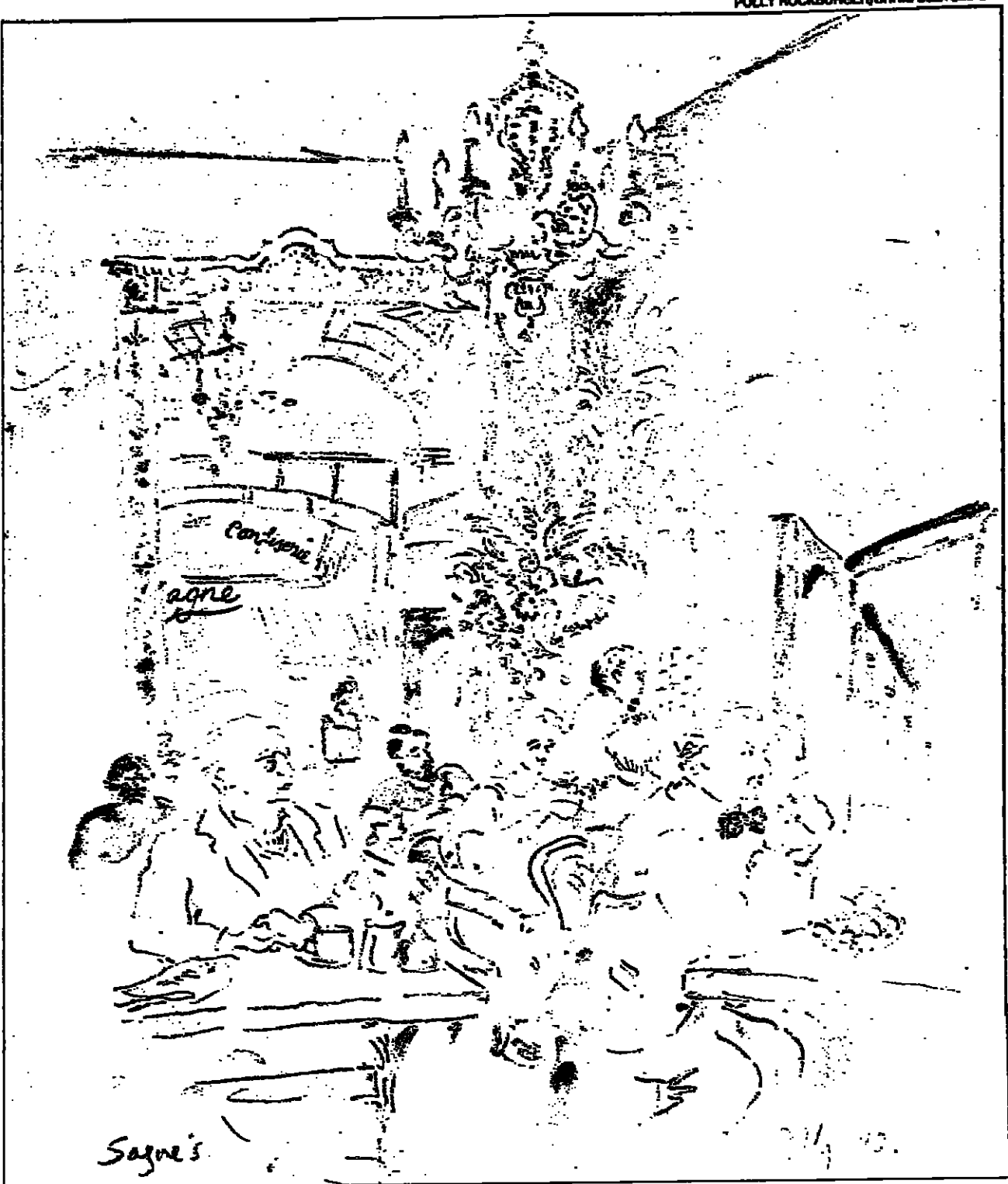
The mass of people rucking at the cake counter inside the door consists of some trying to purchase, others queuing for a table in the cafe at the back, the rest attempting to pay their bills and leave the premises. If they were not so steadily full, someone would sit down and think up a better system.

Pat Val has been thriving since 1926, is now owned by the Scakos from northern Sicily. The clientele is predominantly badly dressed, young, artistic/touristy. There's a noticeboard by the entrance whereon you can leave messages for friends who have been mislaid since you met on the Trans-Siberian express.

Seating for about 45, two no-smoking tables at the back; plain chairs, £1 for a pot of tea, cakes £1.25 to £1.85 and baskets of Hero jams on the table to go with your brioche and croissant. No scones. "This is Soho". The best-selling cake is Black Forest — home-made, as are all cakes, with best butter and real chocolate and kirsch and a big chocolate rose. There are slices of *mille-feuilles* with fresh cream and strawberries, a quite excellent fruitcake glazed with thin lemon fondant.

Waitresses are predominantly scatty and happy and obliging and serve customers in no particular order. Average spend is £3.50 a head. Open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm; Sat 8am-7pm, Sun 10am-5.30pm (071-437 3466).

Maison Bertaux, Greek Street. A woman known as "Madame" who wore Dr Scholl sandals ran this for many decades, but sold out a few years ago to a young actress called Michelle. It prospers. There are three tables on the pavement, another three downstairs opposite the counter — usually one or two of these supporting wedding



cakes for collection or trays of pastries. Upstairs there is room for 30 and a wondrously attractive smell of baking cheese suffuses the premises — they do many kinds of savoury croissant. The cakes are handsome, although at £2.20 for a slice of chocolate cake (without cream), expensive for the area. The room upstairs is used by out-of-work actresses composing letters to producers, Chinese gamblers examining the racing pages, and champagne socialists seriously enjoying their caloric cakes. The carterade of Pat Val is missing, as is the feeling that you are getting great value for money, but the quality is excellent. The china is ordinary. Open seven days a week, 9am-8pm (071-437 6007).

Maison Sagne, Marylebone High Street. Has been in the same hands for 40 years, serves wonderful

cakes, is the quintessential pâtisserie. A shop window full of cakes and marzipan pigs and pastries: a counter where all this is reinforced with home-made chocolates. There are a dozen tables with bentwood chairs, where regulars attend five-and-a-half days a week. Mont Blancs — macaroon bases with strands of pureed sweet glazed chestnuts and whipped cream, palmiers, all the classics are there, and as they will not cut up the almond tart, which is spectacular, you have to buy one (£4), have a slice with your tea and take the rest home in a pretty cardboard box tied with a ribbon.

After 4.30pm, as people vacate their places, the staff put chairs on top of the tables to show that they are closing and in charge. The staff are not, how shall we put this, warm. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm (071-935 6240).

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From the foot-carriers of ancient Greece to the pavement pounders of today, running has been a sport fit for all

## Let health run its natural course

For as long as man has chased woman or beast or vice versa, there has been no more natural exercise than running. From the days when the Christians fled from the Romans and messages were communicated hundreds of miles by foot-carriers in ancient Greece, most famously from Marathon, the most basic form of racing gained a prominent place on the sporting agenda. In time, primarily because of the Greek preoccupation with foot races, Athens became the birthplace of the modern Olympic movement, since

when athletics has provided the prime reason for continuing the Olympic Games. Professionals aside, running has become an enjoyable pastime for the unwearied masses. As long as you warm up properly beforehand (especially those aged over 35), almost anyone can do it. Even someone who has just had a heart attack can do it, and can be urged to do it by his doctor, as James F. Fixx pointed out in his excellent documentary, *The*

*Complete Book of Running*. Unfortunately, the author did not provide the perfect illustration. Suffering from an undiagnosed heart condition, he died aged 52 while on his daily ten-mile run. Neither did Gordon Pirie, one of Britain's exceptional distance runners, live to a ripe old age. He died in December 1991, aged 60, from cancer of the bowel, despite an extreme radical health food diet. Physiologists will testify that Fixx and Pirie were tragic exceptions to the rule that says exercise means health.

Most people have benefited from the great running boom and will live longer for it. They will look and feel better, even if they do not have the flowing action of Herb Elliott, Filbert Bayi or Sebastian Coe. Unlike those past champions, who devoted their lives to the pursuit of glory, there is no need for the average runner to make drastic changes to his or her life. Running can easily be accommodated in a daily routine. Nor does winning races, or even entering them, matter. Winning is not everything, says Rick Booth, a modest 3hr 24min marathon runner. For him, it is enough to achieve a target of 250 runs a year, an average of about five a week, knowing that he will sweat off most of the extra inches he puts on in the pub. His ambitions are merely to finish every race he starts and, one day, to climb into a pair of size-32 Levi 501 jeans. Consequently, he has not had to change his lifestyle.

If Mr Booth is able to run regularly, virtually anyone can. A former public school boy who became a "brickie", Mr Booth, 45, has discovered there is more to sport than football and cricket. So much does he enjoy the

### SPORTING LIFE

"top-of-the-world" feeling generated by running that he prefers to run every evening after work and before drinking. "I can really enjoy myself if I've run," he says. "Everything is enhanced."

Like several of his contemporaries, Mr Booth encounters a jittery, uptight feeling if he

doesn't run. Like a drug, it becomes so habit-forming that it must be accommodated, be it a ten-minute jog or a 20-mile run over Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common from his home in Putney.

So many people run nowadays that no one need feel as conspicuous as Mr Booth did 25 years ago, when he first went out wearing a pair of Woolworth's plimsolls. Shoes have, thankfully, become more sophisticated but athletics is

still one of the cheapest sports. For the committed runner, heavy milages have led to the sport becoming more expensive, as shoes wear out all too quickly. It is no good persevering with worn shoes — your feet will take the toll. Achilles tendons will snap, arches will hurt and muscles will strain, if the runner does not renew his footwear regularly.

The one advantage that runners have over other sportsmen is that they can exercise on any

firm ground, as long as it is not down a motorway or, in the dark, down unfamiliar roads with cambers that can cause injuries. Yielding surfaces such as those found on fields, commons and paths are best.

The boom probably started in the US, when the masses took to Central Park in their vests, shorts and trackuits. Now office workers in most big cities think nothing of spending their lunch hours striding out, instead of in the pub. Or, if they are anything like Mr Booth, doing both.

NICK HARLING



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Madam Butterfly Introduction, Love Duet, Humming  
Chorus, One Fine Day, Manon Lescaut Madrigal &  
Intermezzo: Gianni Schicchi O mio babbino caro  
La Fanciulla del West Cavalleria Rusticana La Bohème  
Musetta's Waltz Song & C. Gilda's Madrigal...  
Chilmanova Mimi... O Soave Fanciulla! Tosca Intro. Act 1:  
Recondita armonia, Vissi d'arte, E Ippolito le stelle:  
Turando Signora, In questa notte...  
dormo, Tu che di gel sei cinta & Act 3 Finale

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HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Water Music Suite  
ALBINONI Adagio; MOZART Horn Concerto No. 4  
BACH Concerto for 2 violins; Sleepers Awake (excerpt)  
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ANDREW WATSON, NICHOLAS WARD viols

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Sleeping Beauty Waltz • Swan Lake Suite  
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1812 Overture (with cannon & mortar effects)

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

BRIAN WRIGHT cond NIGEL HUTCHINGS piano

BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

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## THE FOUR SEASONS

BACH Brandenburg Concerto No. 3  
PACHEBEL Canon ALBINONI Adagio  
VIVALDI The Four Seasons  
MOZART Festival Overture  
IAN WATSON conductor/continuo

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ELISABETH PERRY

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MASCHERA Ecco L'Orto, Campo Dieti Altra Grand  
March & Ballet Music LA TRAVIATA Brindisi  
MEYERBEER: LE PROPHETE March BELLE NORMA  
Costa Diva WAGNER: TANHAUSER Hall Brindisi  
PUCCINI: TOSCA Recondita Armonia, E Ippolito le stelle:  
Vissi d'arte LA BOHEME: Ah! Mimi TURANDOT  
Nessun Dorma MASCHERA CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA  
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BONAVENTURA BOTTONE tenor HENRY HERFORD baritone

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SOUTHERN BOYS CHOIR

WELSH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 17 Oct 8.00

RSC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The British Library

Andrew Davis conductor James MacGillivray piano

Dante's Song for Hugh Wood Piano Concerto: Elgar's Symphony

No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Mon 19 Oct 8.00

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Tue 20 Oct 8.00

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Orchestra at the RFL, from

Walter-Mat (tutti) Radio Lupa (tutti) Howard Spring Series No. 3:

Brussels Concerto No. 1; Strauss Concerto No. 1; Strauss

The Good Shepherd. 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Wed 21 Oct 7.30

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA William Walton

(conductor) Daniel Barenboim (conductor) Elgar's Symphony

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Fri 23 Oct 7.30

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Sat 24 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Sun 25 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Mon 26 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Tue 27 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Wed 28 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Thu 29 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Fri 30 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Sat 31 Oct 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Sun 1 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Mon 2 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Sun 8 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Mon 9 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Tue 10 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Wed 11 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Thu 12 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Fri 13 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Sat 14 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Sun 15 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Mon 16 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Tue 17 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 1, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Wed 18 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Thu 19 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Fri 20 Nov 7.30

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A. T. 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Symphony No. 5, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Symphony No. 7, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 8, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

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Symphony No. 10, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 11, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 12, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 13, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 14, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 15, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 16, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 17, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.50

Symphony No. 18, 193.50, 125.00, 117.50, 110.00, 102.



Benedict Nightingale attends the bedside of *Radio Times*, at the Queen's Theatre in London

# Extreme case of cabaret sickness

Ever since *Five Guys Named Moe* metastasised and sent compendium show after compendium show into the theatrical bloodstream, infecting the West End with a sort of cabaret cancer, the same complaint has been heard again and again. Why can't we have a lot stronger enough to link all those songs? Well, someone has punished us by granting our desires. Now much better if the creator of *Radio Times* had given us a score or so of Noel Gay's numbers, instead of concocting what is clearly beyond their wit, namely a good story.

The reticence of Abi Grant's book is that IBC stalwarts are presenting a radio show, *Variety Bandwagon*, in the war-torn London of 1941. The leading comedian (Tony Slattery) cannot bring himself to marry the leading chanteuse (Kathryn Evans) and risks losing her to an American crooner (Jeff Shankley). The sound engineer (James Butler) is wily in love with another singer (Harriet Benson). Moreover, a new producer has appeared in the form of a sub-sul-Rethian misery-man comically killed Heathcliffe Bultitude (Peter Rutherford). Will the show

survive his threatened censorship and everybody else's emotions?

Well, just guess. The stories all bumble, clichés clanking, to their inevitable conclusions. The American ("if you need a best man, let me know") turns marriage broker. The engineer proves his manhood by saving a burning fireman and, very nearly, a burning building too. And Bultitude is magically transformed into a good sort and a great trouper. He ends up dressed as a talking goose and making the kind of smutty joke that the plot fraudulently suggested he would repress.

Those who nostalgically recall *Workers Playtime* may be amused by the sound effects (coconut shells et al) and the banter: "Doctor, my leg's broken in three places" "well, don't go back to any of them". But terrible jokes are no less terrible for being meant to be terrible, and many of them occur off-mike, in the "real" world. Also, their basic function, like that of the story, is still to provide some slim excuse for Gay's songs. Bultitude has only to refuse an invitation to a cast celebration for the band to strike up: "I took my harp to a party, but no-one allowed me to play, so I took the damned thing away." You feel that somebody may

ask an irrelevant question about the bombing of South London or tomorrow's weather, and everybody will sing "Doing the Lambeth Walk", and "The Sun Has Put His Hat On".

That doesn't happen, because songs from *Gay's Me and My Girl* seem to be excluded. What's left are pleasant and sometimes jolly tunes — "Run, Rabbit", "There's Something About a Soldier That's Fine, Fine, Fine" — along with toodies and tinkles that would make the Hums of Pooh sound sophisticated. Would you believe a number in which the chorus twitters "hey little hen, when, when, when will you lay me an egg for tea?", adding insubstantial shrieks of "caw" and "pah". After three hours of *Radio Times* I believed it all too utterly.

Still, much of the audience seemed to find David Gilmore's production innocent fun, which I suppose it is. And if Shankley's American is even smugger and more irritating than he seems to realise, Slattery's chunky Archie Rice has a sort of flummoxed, mournful charisma. How best to sum up their efforts? There must have been worse cases of cabaret cancer than this, but for the life of me I cannot recall what they were.



Gottie of gear: Ian Bartholemew (centre) and Tony Slattery make a dummy run in a scene from Noel Gay's musical, *Radio Times*

## Let's talk about sex, maybe

Madonna may find her role as

Venus in furs a turn-on.

But for the rest of us her new album is less than erotic

Remind me not to have an affair with Madonna. Never mind the whipping, gagging and toe-sucking that is graphically explored on the cover artwork of her much trumpeted new album *Erotica* (Maverick/Sib 9362-45031-2). It is the emotional fallout that would be really hard to take.

For although *Erotica* has been preceded by a ton of lewd expectations and comes stuck with the routine warning: "Contains language that some people might find offensive", in purely mechanical terms it is mild fare.

There is an ode to the joys of coitus ("Where Life Begins") a childish risqué rap between two homeboys posing the all-important question "Did you Do It?", an f-word here, a bit of moaning and groaning there, and that is about it. Certainly, there has

### ROCK RECORDS

been far stronger material featured on mainstream chart albums by Prince and the New Power Generation, to name but two. Furthermore, compared to the work of any hardcore rap act, *Erotica* is about as explicit as an Eartha Kitt album.

But there are dark tones and genuinely lurid undercurrents lurking beneath *Erotica*'s thin surface lather. In many of the songs the themes of pleasure, pain and revenge are intertwined to form a bittersweet mesh of highly charged emotion.

"Bye Bye Baby" is a vindictive end-of-love affair song which she sings in a deceptively cute voice, compressed as if heard down a telephone. "I'd like to hurt you," she tells her



Taste the whip: Madonna unleashes her paean to the delights of sado-masochistic *Erotica*

out-of-favour lover, matter-of-factly, evoking much the same spirit of forgiveness and understanding as the femme fatales of *Fatal Attraction* or *Basic Instinct*.

A similar vein of cold-blooded ferocity is tapped in "Thief of Hearts", where the woman who has dared to steal Madonna's man is asked, in candy-sweet tones: "Which leg do you want me to break?"

These two songs, together with the title track, which gently hymns the attractions of

sado-masochism ("There's a certain satisfaction in a little bit of pain"), are among the best on the album. Somehow, when she is expressing concern for her fellow human beings, as in the plea for equality on "Why's It So Hard" or the Aids-is-terrible lyric to "In This Life", her songs have less resonance.

Musically, *Erotica* is a collection built for the dancefloor, but stitched together from an intriguing mixture of sources. Along with the standard synthesiser and drum machine arrangements, many of the rhythm tracks are sampled from scratchy old 1960s and 1970s funk records so much so that there is a note on the CD sleeve pointing out that all surface noise on the song "Erotica" has been included intentionally.

This produces an added sleaze factor, as if the music

was bleeding out to the street from a Soho massage parlour — an effect curiously redolent of the Beastie Boys' overlooked masterpiece from 1989, *Paul's Boutique*.

For much of the time Madonna intones rather than sings her words, maintaining a spectral, faintly threatening presence that lures the listener in with all the honeyed charm of a Venus flytrap.

In an industry not noted for its sense of decorum, Madonna has set new standards for baring both her body and her soul, ostensibly in the service of her art.

This album adds another piece to the picture, ironically confirming the impression that no matter how provocative, she is simply too frightening a figure to be a genuinely erotic icon.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Sibelius on an epic scale

Works by Finland's most famous son, both well-known and recently uncovered, are treated with due deference

### CLASSICAL RECORDS

As London tunes up for a major festival of Scandinavian arts at the Barbican next month, the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Esa-Pekka Salonen releases another fine addition to its Sibelius discography: the four *Lemminkäinen Legends* and *En Saga* (Sony SK 48067).

The *Legends* come from Finland's national epic, the *Kalevala*. Wanton Lemminkäinen grabs a wife from the island maidens, abandons her to search for the Maid of the Northland, comes face to face in Finland's Hades, with the Swan of Tuonela, is hacked to death then sung back to life by his mother. Sibelius's subtlety and his daring in recreating these scenes orchestrally ring out of these clean, lean performances.

Salonen's reading does for these pieces what Keith Bosley's new English translation did for the *Kalevala* itself a couple of years ago. The cellos' recitative is impassioned yet taut; the virtuosity of the LA Phil's wind soloists makes the music dance with fresh new imagery.

Sibelius admitted that *En Saga* came closer to the Iceland-

dic Edda than anything from the *Kalevala*. This performance of the condensed revised edition of 1902 certainly reinforces the point. A high fibre bass melody carves out the bare fifth of its contour, and the brass play with all the mischief and swagger of the god Loki himself.

Finland's Lahri Symphony Orchestra, which won acclaim last year with its recording of the original version of the Sibelius Violin Concerto, has come up with another Sibelius first: the *Suite for Violin and String Orchestra*. Its manuscript was found in the 1980s and the work was given its world premiere in Lahri two years ago. This, the first recording, reveals it as a light, pastoral triptych, perhaps too light for a Sibelius who was then working on his great Eighth Symphony, perhaps lying in wait for a fourth movement to complete its seasonal programme. Dong-Suk Kang plays it with as much sleight of hand as it was written.

The work appears as the centrepiece of a timely taster pack of Finnish music, called (and opened with) *Finlandia* (BIS-CD-575). It gives samples of the popular side of Finnish music: no Sallinen, Heinenen or Kokkonen here. Rautavaara is included, though, with his irresistible *Cantus arcticus: concerto for birds and orchestra*. Here, too, is Einar Englund's suite from his incidental music to the Erik Blomberg film *The White Reindeer*, which will be shown at the Barbican next month.

For those who wish to leave not a single Nordic stone unturned, the Foundation for the Promotion of Finnish Music has released something of a rarity in a Finnish-Sami-Estonian collaboration on the Symphony No 1 by the Finnish composer and saxophonist, Seppo Pääkkönen (DAT CD-11). The symphony uses some 20 joiks (the rolling song melodies of the Sami people) in a joyfully eclectic fusion of native Lapp singing, jazz improvisation and classical symphonic writing.

HILARY FINCH

### THE SUNDAY TIMES Prose posers

It is the pathetic over-compensatory and cod-political heroics of male writers that have made me embarrassed to call myself by the name. In future might it be possible to say more about the honour of being able to write, and less about the honour we do others by allowing them to read us? Can we talk, and write, less about the manly courage writing requires? Can we stop comparing it to working down a coalmine...?

Julie Burchill, in *The Culture* — *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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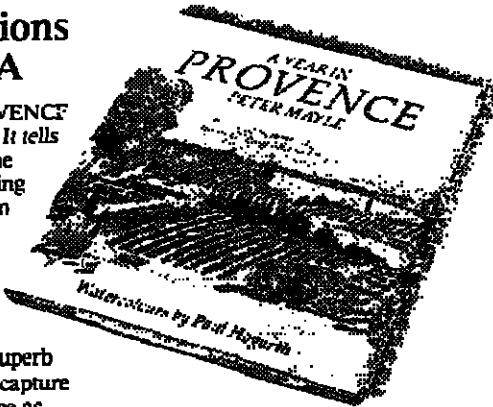
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### THE TIMES READER OFFER

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real taste for adventure; a pleasure flight by light aircraft; champagne, fruit, flowers and chocolates in your room for your arrival; reflexology, aromatherapy, facial and massage for a healthy stay and much more.

For a detailed look at the hotels and what they are offering, The Times features today a complete list

of the 180 participating inn, country houses and hotels. This includes, for example, Bodwick Castle, a favourite of Sir Walter Scott; the Riverside Country House Hotel, in Derbyshire; and Parkhill Hotel in the New Forest. Full details of how to apply will appear next Saturday.

## SOUTH-WEST

### AVON

**Apsley House Hotel.** Newbridge Hill, Bath, BA1 3PT. (0225 336966). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £18.50. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. This Georgian hotel, said to have been built for the Duke of Wellington is just five minutes from the centre of Bath, and offers a bottle of champagne and tickets to the Bath tour, the Roman Baths and museum of costumes.

**The Compass Inn.** Tormarton, Nr Badminton, GL9 1JB. (0454 218242). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £15. This 18th century coaching inn serves real ales and country wines and offers either a skid pan course for one with cars and tuition or a candle-lit champagne dinner for two on the second night. Skidpan only available on Saturdays, meal offer available all week.

**Combe Grove Manor Hotel and Country Club.** Bracknock Hill, Monkton Combe, Bath, BA2 7HS. (0225 834661). Usual rate: £127.50. Offer rate: £95.63. Average dinner price: £25. Offer not available Christmas, New Year or Easter. Combe Grove Manor is set in over 60 acres of gardens and woodland and offers either Beauty treatments for example a full aromatherapy body treatment; or swimming, tennis coaching or a personal fitness programme with a massage; or swimming and/or tennis coaching and/or a personal fitness programme.

**Thornbury Castle.** Thornbury, BS12 1HH. (0454 281182). Usual rate: £137.90. Offer rate: £103.43. Average dinner: £31.50. Not available 24 December to 4 January or 14 February and 8-12 March inclusive. Usual rate increases on 8 March to £147.90. Winner of the Johansens 1992 Value for Money Award, Thornbury Castle is a real castle and offers a chauffeur driven car for a half-day trip to a Cotswold village, the Georgian city of Bath, Cheltenham or the Wye Valley.

**Hutton Court.** Church Lane, Hutton, BS24 9SN. (0934 814343). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available 24-30 December. Hutton Court dates back to Norman times. The restaurant has an unusual vaulted ceiling. The hotel offers a choice of Garden Centre voucher; Christopher Piper's wines; WPA membership and 1993 Game Fair tickets; Chew Valley trout fishing; or horse riding on the Mendips.

### CORNWALL

**The Garrack Hotel.** Borthallan Lane, St Ives, TR26 3AA. (0736 796199). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. This hotel has views over Portmeor Beach and St Ives bay offers a tour of West Cornwall's hidden and ancient sites with lunch or flight around Lands End by air.

**The Jubilee Inn.** Pelynt, Nr Looe, PL13 2JZ. (0503 220312). Usual rate: £56. Offer rate: £42. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available Christmas, New Year or Easter. This inn dates back to the 16th century and offers Privilege card holders one night's room and breakfast for two people free of charge.

**The Luggat Hotel.** Portloe, Truro, TR2 5RD. (0872 501322). Usual rate: £98. Offer price: £73.50. Average dinner: £20. £20 each person deposit required when confirming reservation. Hotel closed 1st December 1992 until 11th February 1993. This hotel was a former smugglers' haunt and offers one year's "transferable"

membership of the National Trust together with a Cornish shrub to enjoy in your garden.

**St Martin's Hotel.** St Martin's, Isles of Scilly, TR25 0QW. (0720 220921). Usual rate: £112. Offer rate: £84. Average dinner: £22. Available throughout October 1992 and April 1993. Hotel closed 1st November 1992 to 31st March 1993. This hotel on the island, St Martin's overlooks Tean Sound and offers return launch transfers from helicopter to St Martin's, snorkelling with Atlantic seals, wet suits, snorkels, flippers and instructor all provided.

**Higher Faugan Country House Hotel.** Newlyn, Penzance, TR18 5NS. (0736 620706). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner: £29. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Must be pre-booked and agreed in writing. A country house set in 10 acres overlooking Penzance and Mounts Bay offers champagne on arrival plus either a trial flying lesson for one; a scenic flight for two, subject to availability; or dinner for two.

**Trebeva Lodge.** Trenale, Tintagel, PL34 0HR. (0840 770410). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £13.75. To exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter. A grade II listed house built in the 14th century on the north Cornish coast offers a £50 deduction from the cost of additional nights stay.

### DEVON

**The Arundell Arms Hotel.** Lifton, Devon PL16 0AA. (0566 784666). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner price: £23.75. Offer not available Christmas and Easter. A 250-year-old coaching inn with 20 miles of private waters on the River Tamar offers one day's fishing for rainbow trout on the hotel's private lake with an hour's tuition and tackle included or table d'hôte dinner on first night.

**Easton Court Hotel.** Easton Cross, Chagford, TQ13 8JL. (0647 433469). Usual rate: £76. Offer rate: £57. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas, Easter or bank holidays. The hotel is a grade II listed thatched Tudor house set in Devon countryside and offers £20 off standard price of five course dinner per couple each night (minimum two nights); plus a bottle of wine on first night worth £10.

**Halpstone Manor.** Bishop's Tawton, Barnstaple, EX32 0EA. (0271 830321). Usual rate: £80. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner: £27.50. Set in 200 acres of rolling countryside, with a 16th century wood panelled dining room, the hotel offers either walked up rough shooting for one person for one day; deer stalking for one person (red, roe or fallow deer); free salmon fishing day on River Taw for two persons (1st March onwards).

**Holme Chase Hotel.** Ashburton, TQ13 7NS. (03643 4711). Usual rate: £123. Offer rate: £92.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Booking to be confirmed in writing. Holme Chase was once a hunting estate and dates from the 11th century. The hotel offers a Holme Chase planter, crafted in their private workshops using reclaimed timber.

**Hotel Riviera.** The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8AY. (0395 515201). Usual rate: £126. Offer rate: £94.50. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. The hotel is positioned at the centre of the esplanade overlooking the bay and offers champagne, fruit and flowers on arrival together with concessionary green fees at Sidmouth Golf Club.

**The Marine Hotel.** Cliff Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8JH. (054 884 4444). Usual rate: £122. Offer rate: £91.50. Average dinner: £22.

## Good day, Constable

Not the policeman, but the painter — and where better to view his landscapes than from a good hotel?

As soft white clouds parted to reveal a huge pale blue sky, and sunlight illuminated the gentle landscape, there was little doubt that this was Constable Country. The artist was born in Suffolk, in the picturesque village of East Bergholt, where, nearby, Willy Lott's cottage still stands next to Flatford Mill, a scene as beautiful today as it looks on canvas in *The Haywain*.

But Suffolk is a county abundant in history, and the centuries-old halls that dot the region have their own stories to tell. They also now provide magnificent accommodation, and Seckford Hall, about half an hour's drive northeast of Flatford, at Woodbridge, is one of the most beautiful.

The Tudor mansion, set in 34 acres of lawns, manicured gardens and pasture, is thought to have been built between 1541 and 1550. It stands, grandly, at the end of a topiary-lined driveway, warm and welcoming, still with its original dark, carved beams and panelling, minstrel's gallery, carefully chosen antiques and an owner who has called it home for 42 years.

Michael Bunn's parents bought Seckford Hall in 1950, running it in their retirement as a seven-room hotel. Michael took over in 1965 and, with his wife Christine, has sensitively expanded and tastefully restored the main building and adjacent granary, stables and farmer's cottage to provide 34 luxury rooms, an indoor swimming pool, spa and gymnasium. Club restaurant and banqueting hall.

The main building also houses a Tudor bar, Great Hall and an à la carte restaurant, which boasts an informative list of wines numbering more than 80, and does lobster as its speciality to whet your appetite, you can view their curious bodies in a glass aquarium in the foyer before enjoying them on your plate.

equally delicious as a creamy Thermidor or broiled and served with melted butter.

Seckford Hall's fortune, however, was not always so good. Its brown-red bricks were in the hands of a demolition contractor when, in 1940, Sir Ralph Harwood bought the mansion for use as a hotel. Six weeks later, during the second world war, it was commandeered by troops while anti-aircraft guns lay in wait in the surrounding hills. But in early 1946 the slow task of restoration and modernisation began.

Sir Ralph brought to Seckford a number of antiques from Windsor Castle, a legacy of his years as financial secretary to King George V and Queen Mary. Many are still in the hall, proudly displaying their Windsor Castle emblem.

History of a more political nature hangs in Seckford Hall's entrance hall. John Major visited in June last year (there he is, photographed with Mr Bunn's family), and his predecessor, Baroness Thatcher, was a celebrated guest in 1983, when she stayed in room No 24. Five of the rooms have magnificently carved four-posters (although hers was not one of them), the oldest dating from 1587.

But there is no time like the present, and there are plenty of activities to keep the modern traveller busy, both at Seckford and in the surrounding area.

For the health-conscious Seckford Hall's ingeniously converted granary, under its high ceiling beams, is a must. The large, crystal-clear heated pool is perfect for laps or merely relaxing, and the spa is a most inviting indulgence. Near the pool area is a gym, with two high-tech exercise bikes, three weight machines, a sunbed and a computerised rowing machine.

Seckford Hall also has its own nine-hole golf course, and



Sleeping in style: five of the rooms at Seckford Hall have carved four-posters

there are championship courses nearby at Woodbridge, Aldeburgh and Purdis Heath, Ipswich.

Beyond Seckford, walking and birdwatching are popular pastimes in the Suffolk coastal district. The shingle beach near Aldeburgh and the RSPB bird sanctuary at Minnere are particularly recommended.

With all that water, boating is another obvious activity; you can take a river cruise, with commentary, from Felixstowe to Ipswich, or simply walk

around the picturesque river-side villages, such as Waldringfield and Woodbridge, with their moored fishing vessels and sailing punts.

Shooting is popular and gliding and parachuting are available to those in search of aerial adventure.

If you are interested in sampling the produce of two successful English wineries, visitors are welcomed at both the Shawsgate vineyard outside Framlingham and the Brunsyard vineyard, winery

and herb centre. The 1989 Brunsyard St Peter dry white was an excellent accompaniment to our lobster.

### LISA HUDSON

Seckford Hall's special offer is 25 per cent off the usual tariff for a double twin room for two people, including a full English breakfast (now £67.50-£72.50), and an exclusive extra offer comprising: one bottle of Charles Heidsieck brut champagne, a dozen roses, and a box of handmade chocolates (0394 385678).

**The George Hotel.** Market Street, Hatherleigh, B20 3JN. (0837 810454). Usual price: £60. Offer price: £45. Average dinner: 16. Promotion not available Christmas and Easter. Please state which gift when booking. Built in 1450 as a retreat for the monks of Tavistock, this inn has many original features and offers a lovely Dartington Crystal Decanter (made just 10 miles away) with a bottle of Churchill's vintage port or a gourmet hamper including locally smoked ham, champagne and other treats.

**Whitechapel Manor.** Nr South Molton, EX36 1EG. (0769 537377). Usual rate: £130. Offer rate: £97.50. Average dinner: £32. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Dinner must be taken on each night of stay. A 16th century Grade I Elizabethan manor house situated in the foothills of Exmoor offers two tickets for a day out at Lundy Island with its puffins, seals and cattle. Dates and times of sailing must be checked with hotel.

**Knowstone Court.** Knowstone, South Molton, EX36 4RW. (03984 47). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £6.95. Not available at Christmas. Converted Victorian vicarage in a quiet thatched village on the edge of Exmoor offers a hamper full of Devonian delights.

### DORSET

**Beechleas.** 17 Poole Road, Wimborne Minster, B21 1QA. (0202 841684). Usual rate: £91. Offer rate: £68.25. Average dinner price: £15.50. Hotel closed from December 24 until February 1, 1993. Please quote Johansens offer when booking. This Georgian Grade I listed hotel, within five minutes of the historic town of Wimborne Minster, offers a half day's sailing in Poole Harbour and Bay on a 23ft skippered sailing cruise (for two people); or fine wine/champagne to the value of £50.

**The Manor Hotel.** Wet Beddington, Dorchester DT2 9DF. (0308 897116). Usual price: £71. Offer price: £53.25. Average dinner: £14.95. This hotel, part of which is featured in the Domesday

Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Fresh fish and seafood abound in this waterfront setting, the hotel offers either fresh water trout fishing or day pigeon shooting at Bolberry Down.

**Moor View Hotel.** Vale Down, Lydford, EX20 4BB. (082-282 220). Usual rate: £70. Offer rate: £52.50. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. Special inclusive packages available for houseparties over this period. Set on the edge of Dartmoor, guests can walk straight onto the moors from the garden of this Victorian house, furnished in period style with many antiques. The hotel offers either, drinks to the value of £50 during your stay or picnic lunch hampers and wine to the value of £50, ideal for Dartmoor walks.



Seaside splendour: the Osborne Hotel in Torquay offers free Christmas hampers

**Orstone Manor Hotel.** Rockhouse Lane, Maidencombe, Torquay, TQ1 4SX. (0803 328098). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £22.50. Offer not available at Christmas or New Year.

Orstone Manor was a Georgian country lodge, built in the 19th century. The hotel offers automatic upgrading to one of our large "Powderham" sea facing rooms without the usual £15 per night supplement for the first two nights.

**The Osborne Hotel.** Hesketh Crescent, Torquay, TQ1 2LL. (0803 213311). Usual price: £110. Offer price: £80. Average dinner: £21.50. Offer unavailable Christmas, New Year and Easter. Dinner must be taken in the main restaurant on one night. The Osborne has seaside views and offers a wicker hamper for you to fill with

food, wine and Christmas delicatessen from Marks and Spencer to the value of £60.

**Park House.** South Molton, EX36 3ED. (0769 572610). Usual rate: £78. Offer rate: £58.50. Average dinner: £15. Special 4 night packages available over Christmas and Easter. The stone built 18th century manor house furnished with antiques. The hotel offers either a four wheel drive Exmoor safari with off-road driving; two hour Exmoor ride to see wild red deer; or a candle-lit dinner for two with champagne or wine.

**The Rising Sun Hotel.** Harbourside, Lymouth, EX35 6EQ. (0598 53223). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner: £18.95. Not available Christmas, New Year or Easter.



Winner of the 1991 Johansens Inn of the Year, The Rising Sun overlooks the harbour and offers a tour of Exmoor's scenery and wildlife (on horseback or by car) any morning or afternoon of your stay.

**The Royal Beacon Hotel.** The Beacon, Exmouth, EX8 2AF. (0395 264886). Usual rate: £72.60. Offer rate: £54.45. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available at Christmas or New Year. The hotel overlooks the sea and Exe estuary and offers a round (per person) of golf at Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club.

**The Royal Castle Hotel.** 11 The Quay, Dartmouth, TQ6 9PS. (0803 833033). Usual rate: £67. Offer rate: £50.25. Average dinner: £14.95. Offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. The Royal Castle is a 17th century coaching inn, overlooking the harbour in the centre of Dartmouth and offers either a day's Wreck fishing; two rounds of golf at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club or a £50 voucher for dinner at The Exchange, Dartmouth.

**St Oliver Court Hotel.** Mary Arches Street, EX4 3AZ. (0392 217736). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £20. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. Set close to the centre of town this Georgian house has its own courtyard with fountains and offers a welcoming bottle of champagne, enjoy Keith Floyd's "Masters Arms" with half a lobster and a bottle of wine.

**Soar Mill Cove Hotel.** Soar Mill Cove, Salcombe, TQ7



Walking base: the Periton Park Country House Hotel

3DS. (0548 561566). Usual rate: £128. Offer rate: £96. Average dinner: £28.50. Offer not available Christmas and Easter. Usual rate increases in April to £144. Set in its own sheltered bay with acres of National Trust coastline, fresh crabs and lobsters are specialties, the hotel offers a Dartmoor safari by Landrover.

**Tytherleigh Cot Hotel.** Chardstock, Axminster, EX13 7BN. (0460 21170). Usual rate: £98. Offer rate: £73.50. Average dinner: £16.95. Offer not available Christmas, New Year, Easter. This hotel, on the borders of Devon, Somerset and Dorset offers entry to Cricket St Thomas Wildlife Park and The Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton; plus a bottle of champagne on arrival.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
1. Discount available for a minimum of two nights and a maximum of five nights. 2. Discount must be taken one night of stay. 3. Offer valid until April 30 1993. 4. When booking, please quote The Times promotion. 5. See hotel listing for any individual terms and conditions. 6. Offer is subject to availability. 7. Neither The Times nor Johansens can be held responsible for any alterations to information/bookings made after printing.





and conference facilities in an adjoining old tith barn.

The hotel is set in eight acres of walled gardens, with a swimming pool and tennis court. Just relaxing at Whitehall is a pleasure, but if you feel active, the hotel can arrange riding, flying lessons, golf, fishing and shooting. The pleasures of Cambridge are nearby as is racing at Newmarket.

**LESLIE WALTON**

The Whitehall's special offer is £25 per couple of the usual tariff (a breakfast/twin room for two people for only £105-E105, no-night minimum stay), and an exclusive afternoon comprising a day out at Newmarket races, or theatre tickets, or the Cambridge Arts Theatre or the London Coliseum, a bottle of Mercier champagne and a luncheon basket (0279 851603).

● **The Whitehall's special offer is 25 per cent off the usual tariff (a double/twin room for two people usually costs £105-£105, two-night minimum stay), and an exclusive extra offer comprising: a day out at Newmarket races, or theatre tickets for the Cambridge Arts Theatre or the London Coliseum, a bottle of Mercier champagne and a luncheon basket (0279 850603).**



# Pampering the person

Think positive, and feel beautiful,  
relaxed and satisfied in an  
idyllic country-house setting

The sun shines in through the bedroom window. The autumn leaves glow and rustle and across the lawn through the windows of the country club the swimming pool glitters. Room service breakfast sits on the end of the bed, and... well, it's something too to do with the lingering scents of lavender and rosemary, camomile and camphor that come from... me.

Yesterday I had my face peeled. Sounds horrible. Isn't it? Soft cool hands smooth and soothe your face with unguents and creams, rubbing your temples, giving your neck a go just for good measure. It takes away your dead skin cells.

Looking in the mirror today I couldn't swear I am more beautiful but there's nothing

like a facial, a few lengths in the pool, a bit of a lie-down in a towelling robe, a relapse into the Jacuzzi and an hour of reflexology on your feet to make you think beautiful thoughts and feel beautiful feelings. Aromatherapy, hydrotherapy, Thalgo balneo-therapy... are all available at Sopwell House — as well as the many other luxuries you expect from a country hotel.

Although all this sounds very girly it is not exclusively so. The corridors leading to Sopwell House's Country Club and Spa are lined with pictures of football teams (Barcelona, Manchester United) and

and the Bejerano Brasserie. The range of food on the menus means that it's perfectly possible to lapse from any regime to which the health and beauty facilities may have inspired. A plate of fresh fruit, madame? Certainly. An enormous slice of Paris Brest? Yes, madame, that's choux pastry, cream, crème pâtissière, raspberries and chocolate...

Eleven acres of pretty grounds allow for gentle exercise too — this used to be Lord Mountbatten's country home, and legend has it that the King of Greece proposed to Princess Alice, the Duke of Edinburgh's mother, in these gardens (also in those days they didn't have all the amenities that Sopwell now offers). Perhaps there is simply something in the air around St Albans.

The owner, Abraham Bejerano, is a big football aficionado, and boasts that the teams which stay here before big matches always win. There are two restaurants, the Magnolia Conservatory (the conservatory was built after the magnolias were grown, which leads to some interesting trunk-going-through-the-roof scenarios)



The swimming-pool area at Sopwell House Hotel and Country Club: soccer teams play better after a visit

**The Swan, Market Place, Southwold, IP18 6EG.** (0502 722186).  
Usual rate: £82.00. Offer rate: £61.50. Average dinner: £16.50. Not available 23 December-3 January and 9-11 April 1993 inclusive. Set in the market place of this Suffolk town. The Swan offers either a bottle of Adnams Champagne and a signed copy of *Pulligny-Montrachet* by Simon Lofus or an exclusive silk tie, plus a basket of jams and pickles handmade for The Swan.

**Bradfield House, Bradfield, Cambs.** Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LR. (0284 386301).  
Usual rate: £65. Offer rate: £48.75. Average dinner: £20. Hotel closed Christmas week. Please state on booking that you intend to use special privilege card. This four bedroomed 17th century country house with antique furniture and fireplace, old French wood burning stoves and vases of fresh flowers offers a three course dinner for two in the our award winning restaurant, to include two half bottles of vintage white and red wine.

## WARWICKSHIRE

**Nuthurst Grange Country House Hotel & Restaurant, Hockley Heath, B94 5NL.** (0564 783972).  
Usual price: £99. Offer price: £74.25. Average dinner: £36.50. Chef-patron David Randolph and his team have won many accolades for the hotel's imaginative menus and offer a £50 reduction from dinner bill on the evenings that dinner is taken in accordance with conditions.

## WEST MIDLANDS

**New Hall, Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield, B76 8QX.** (021-378 2442).  
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £24.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. Only available Friday-Sunday inclusive. Reputedly the oldest fully moated manor house in England, this hotel offers a side of New Hall smoked salmon on departure per couple, plus a bottle of champagne in your room on arrival and complimentary tickets to visit Warwick Castle and grounds.

**Norton Place Hotel, 180 Lifford Lane, Kings Norton, B30 3NT.** (021 433 5656).  
Usual rate: £122.00. Offer rate: £91.50. Average dinner: £18.95. Excluding Motor Show at the NEC from the 20 October to 1 November period and Christmas and New Year. This hotel has interiors designed by the same crafts people responsible for the decoration of the Palace of Brunei and offers a guided tour of the reserve cars and art gallery, and commemorative book of The Patrick Collection: plus a trip in a vintage car with champagne.

## THE NORTH

### CHESHIRE

**Nunsmere Hall Hotel, Tarporley Road, Sandiway, CW8 2ES.** (0606 889100).  
Usual rate: £145. Offer rate: £108.75. Average dinner: £28.50. Not available Christmas and New Year. The hotel is surrounded on three sides by a lake, and offers two 18 hole rounds of golf at nearby Portol Golf Club.

**Shirley Hall Hotel Golf and Country Club, Pot Shirley, Macclesfield, SK10 5SB.** (0625 575757).  
Usual rate: £100. Offer rate: £75. Average dinner: £19.50. Offer not available 5 December-4 January 1993. A country house set in 262 acres of grounds on the edge of the Peak District. The hotel offers a dinner and dance on the Saturday night in the Oakridge Restaurant, a bottle of champagne, full use of the Country Club and a manure with resident beautician. The offer also includes one round of golf with a supplementary round at a special rate of £15.00.

**Stanneylands Hotel, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4EY.** (0625 525225).  
Usual rate: £106. Offer rate: £79.50. Average dinner: £25. Not available 14 December to 1 January. A country house set in several acres close to Cheshire and the Peak District, the hotel offers two tickets to visit the National Trust's award winning museum in Quarry Bank Mill, lunch and mill woven cotton gifts included.

### CUMBRIA

**Dale Head Hall Hotel, Thirmer, Keswick, CA12 4TN.** (07687 72478).  
Usual rate: £104. Offer rate: £78. Not available Christmas,

New Year and Easter. Rate includes dinner to be taken on all nights of stay. Midway between Grasmere and Keswick, this Elizabethan hall stands in acres of mature woodland and gardens. The meals include produce from the walled garden. Guests will be upgraded to a four-poster suite and can have free hire of walking boots from George Fisher's outdoor leisure shop.

**Gilpin Lodge Country House Hotel and Restaurant, Crook Road, Windermere, LA23 3NE.** (05394 88818).  
Usual rate: £80. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner: £24. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. A lakeland country house set in 20 acres just 2 miles from Lake Windermere offering five course dinner for two persons from the menu.

**Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge, LA12 8AT.** (05395 31207).  
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £20. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. A former coaching inn at the water's edge on the banks of Lake Windermere. The hotel offers a guided tour of the Lake District, including a sail on Lake Windermere, returning to the hotel for afternoon tea.

**Linthwaite House Hotel, Crook Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, LA23 3JA.** (05394 88600).  
Usual rate: £78. Offer rate: £58.50. Average dinner: £25. Not available Christmas, New Year, Easter and Bank Holidays. Linthwaite House overlooks Lake Windermere and Belle Island. The hotel offers two luxury bedrooms with Linthwaite logo, worth £35 each.

**Michaels Nook Country House Hotel, Grasmere, Ambleside, LA21 9RP.** (05394 35496).  
Usual rate: £108. Offer rate: £81. Average dinner: £38. Not available over bank holidays. Dinner in our award winning restaurant to be taken each evening. State Johansens Times offer when booking. A stone built lakeland home quietly situated overlooking the Grasmere Valley, the hotel offers two free rounds of golf on a course, a bottle of champagne in room, a pot of tea on arrival, fresh fruit and flowers in your room.

**The Old Vicarage Country House Hotel, Witherslack, LA11 6RS.** (0448 52381).  
Usual rate: £98. Offer rate: £73.50. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available Christmas and New Year. An old Georgian house, off the beaten track, the hotel offers either tennis coaching with an LTA coach, a lakeland hamper, or a day's health and fitness package.

**Rampside Country House Hotel, Watermill on Ullswater, Nr Penrith, CA11 0LP.** (07684 86442).  
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £30. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. A country house on the shore of Lake Ullswater, the hotel offers champagne and afternoon tea on day of arrival.

**Temple Sowerby House Hotel, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, CA10 1RZ.** (07683 61578).  
Usual rate: £56. Offer rate: £42. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Easter. An old Cumbrian farmhouse overlooking Cross Fell, the highest peak in the Pennines offers guests staying three nights, the third night free of charge.

**Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere, LA22 9SW.** (05394 35592).  
Usual rate: £116. Offer rate: £87. Average dinner: £29.50. Dinner to be taken each night. Not available New

Year or Bank Holidays. This lakeland hotel offers either a bottle of champagne and chocolates or a free round of golf, Sunday to Thursday only, for up to six people or Bucks fizz up a local mountain for parties of 6 or over.

### DURHAM

**The Teesdale Hotel, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Nr Barnard Castle, DL12 0QG.** (0833 40264).  
Usual rate: £80. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner: £16.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. State *The Times* Johansens offer when booking. Located in a north Pennines this 17th century Teesdale Inn offers a round of golf or two and a half hours house riding: a visit to the theatre or dinner and bottle of house wine on the second night. All visitors receive voucher for return visit with room free, pay for food only basis.

### LANCASHIRE

**Mains Hall Country House Hotel, Mains Lane, Little Singleton, FY6 7LF.** (0253 885130).  
Usual rate: £85. Offer rate: £63.75. Average dinner: £25. This hotel was built in the 16th century by an order of monks. Mains Hall overlooks the nearby River Wyre and offers a morning clay pigeon shooting or riding at the local riding school, or dinner for two in our restaurant.

### MANCHESTER

**Etrop Grange, Outwood Lane, Manchester Airport, M22 5NR.** (061 499 0500).

Usual rate: £106.50. Offer rate: £79.88. Average dinner: £26.50. Not available New Year's Eve. One night must be a Friday or Saturday. The hotel offers upgrading to four poster rooms, a chauffeur driven Jaguar will take you to Manchester for a shopping or sightseeing trip, plus tickets to the Granada Studios Tour.

### NORTH YORKSHIRE

**Bilbrough Manor Country House Hotel, Bilbrough, YO22 3PH.** (0937 834002).  
Usual rate: £85. Offer rate: £63.75. Average dinner: £18.50. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. Situated in over 100 acres of farm and woodland, this country house is just five miles from York. It offers a ghost walk around the ancient city of York and a large dram of malt whisky on your return.

**The Boar's Head Hotel, Ripley, Harrogate, HG3 3AY.** (0423 771888).  
Usual rate: £98. Offer rate: £73.50. Average dinner: £26.50. Reservations and credit card guarantee to reception. The Boar's Head overlooks the cobbled market square of Ripley, one of Britain's historic estate villages and offers champagne on arrival, a tour of Ripley Castle gardens plus two visits to local attractions like Jorvik centre in York. **Crathorne Hall Hotel, Crathorne, Yarn, TS15 0AZ.** (0642 700398).  
Usual rate: £105.00. Offer rate: £78.75. Average dinner: £19.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. An Edwardian country house, situated in 15 acres of woodland overlooking the

Cleveland Hills. The hotel offers a one hour clay pigeon shooting lesson including tuition and cartridges plus a dram to warm you up afterwards.

**The Feversham Arms Hotel, 1 High Street, Helmsley, YO6 5AJ.** (0439 70766).  
Usual rate: £76. Offer rate: £57. Average dinner: £18. Available from 1 November to 31 March 93. Not available Christmas and New Year. Four poster rooms £5 per person per night extra. This coaching inn is built of mellow Yorkshire stone and offers dinner for two people on second night with £14 of wines and drinks.

**Grange Hotel, 1 Clifton, York, YO3 6AA.** (0904 644744).  
Usual rate: £105. Offer rate: £78.75. Average dinner: £25. Not available Christmas and Easter. A Regency town house set near the ancient city walls, within 4 minutes walk of York Minster. The hotel offers a traditional hand carved and turned Yorkshire Rosewood created by local craftsmen from our finest English Oak.

**Grants Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate, HG1 2SS.** (0423 560666).  
Usual rate: £106.50. Offer rate: £79.88. Average dinner: £14.25. Not available Christmas and New Year. This town house hotel situated close to the centre of the spa town of Harrogate offers champagne on arrival, plus either a perfume voucher or a round of golf.

**Holbeck Hall Hotel, Seaciff Road, South Cliff, Scarborough, YO11 2XX.** (0723 374374).  
Usual rate: £130.00. Offer rate: £97.50. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available Christmas and New Year. A late Victorian mansion perched on top of Scarborough's South Cliff, offers either a night out at the Stephen Joseph Theatre with champagne supper or shopping day out with a £30 gift voucher, morning coffee and lunch. State when theatre tickets are required at time of booking.

**Mallyn Spout Hotel, Gouthland, Nr Whitby, YO22 5AN.** (0947 86486).  
Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. The hotel is named after a nearby waterfall. Mallyn Spout, close to the beautiful North York Moors National Park. The hotel offers champagne in room on arrival, and one night's dinner.

**The Milburn Arms Hotel, Rosedale Abbey, Pickering, YO18 8RA.** (07515 312).

Usual rate: £64. Offer rate: £48. Average dinner: £16.50. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. The 14th century stone built hotel, situated in the North York Moors National Park offers a guided day visit to historic York including pub lunch or a guided day visit to Richmond, Ripon and Theakstons Brewery.



Off the beaten track: the Old Vicarage at Witherslack

**Millers House Hotel, Middleham, Wensleydale, DL8 4NR.** (0969 22630).  
Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available Christmas New Year or Easter. Easter Monday and Tuesday are available. This Georgian house is just off the cobbled market square in the village of Middleham in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. The hotel offers in association with the Go Racing in Yorkshire Consortium a day at the races, visit the trainer's yard, a VIP tour of the track, member's club badge and car parking. Racing dates are subject to the racing calendar and are available on application to the hotel.

**Nidd Hall Country House Hotel, Nidd, Harrogate, HG3 3BN.** (0423 771598).  
Usual price: £120. Offer price: £90. Average dinner: £26. Not available Christmas or Easter. A country mansion set in 45 acres offers a day of luxury within the leisure club with use of all amenities including a full facial or body massage, and manicure or pedicure.

**Rose and Crown Hotel, Bainbridge, Wensleydale, DL8 3EE.** (0969 50225).  
Usual rate: £68. Offer rate: £51. Average dinner: £16. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

**Talbot Hotel, Yorksgate, Malton, YO17 0AA.** (0653 694031).  
Usual rate: £73. Offer rate:

£54.75. Average dinner: £12.50. Not available Christmas and New Year or Bank Holidays. Deposit of £50 per person required. An 18th century hotel standing above the River Derwent, convenient for the city of York, offers shopping in York with £50 worth of vouchers for Fenwicks York Store.

**Thornton Watlass Hall, Ripon, HG4 4AS.** (0677 422803).  
Usual rate: £104. Offer rate: £78. Average dinner: £29. Not available Christmas and New Year. The mainly Jacobean, Thornton Watlass Hall is set in five acres on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and offers a sightseeing tour of the Yorkshire Dales with lunch, in a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce or a trip to York, sightseeing in a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce, plus horseriding for two people.

**Wrea Head Country House Hotel, Scalby, Scarborough, YO13 0PB.** (0723 378211).  
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £19.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. Deposit of £50 required to secure a booking. This hotel on the edge of the North York Moors National Park, is furnished with antiques and paintings and offers a return taxi to a seafront restaurant for fish and chips lunch with a chilled bottle of champagne on arrival.

### NORTHUMBERLAND

**Bishop Field Country House Hotel, Alendale, Nr Hexham, NE47 9EJ.** (0434 683 248).  
Not available over Christmas and New Year. A 16th century converted farm offers a free bottle of wine if dinner is taken. Also choose from horse riding, (weather permitting), or a trip to the Metro, Europe's largest shopping centre.

**Whitley Hall Hotel, Elliott Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, S30 3NR.** (0742 454444).  
Usual rate: £68. Offer rate: £51. Average dinner: £18.95. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. This imposing country house with the stone walls and oak paneling, just two of the original features which have been preserved. The hotel offers a visit to an authentic Yorkshire coal mine where guests will be given a guided tour 450ft below ground by experienced miners, and a further visit will also be



White Friars Hotel, Boreham

arranged to the nearby Yorkshire Sculpture Park where works by famous sculptors are displayed. Afternoon tea will be included. **Warren House Hotel, Warren Mill, Belford, NE7 7EE.** (06684 581).  
Usual rate: £104. Offer rate: £78. Average dinner: £22.50. Not available Christmas, New Year or Easter. An attractive centuries old country house set on the edge of Budle Bay Bird Sanctuary with views over the sea to Lindisfarne. As many visitor attractions are closed during the winter the hotel offers peace and tranquillity now plus a £50 hotel voucher redeemable during the rest of 1993.

### WEST YORKSHIRE

**The Carlton Hotel, Albert Street, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8ES.** (0422 844400).  
Usual rate: £74. Offer rate: £55.50. Average dinner: £15.25. Not available Christmas and New Year. This Victorian town house hotel situated on the first and second floors of the old Co-operative Society building, offers a portrait drawing by a locally renowned artist or champagne, chocolates and flowers in your room upon arrival. The portrait drawing by artist: subject to be requested upon booking, dates and times to be pre-arranged, a minimum of seven days notice.

**Holdsworth House Hotel, Holdsworth, Halifax, HX2 9TG.** (0422 240024).  
Usual rate: £86.50. Offer rate: £64.88. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available

Christmas and New Year. A Calder Valley Yeoman's Hall of the post medieval period set in its own grounds offers either a day's dry stone walling course on the Yorkshire Moors or a luxury basket of traditional Yorkshire foods. Drystone Walling Course, seven days' notice required.

### THE SOUTH BERKSHIRE

**The Swan Diplomat, Sreatley on Thames, RG8 9HR.** (0491 873737).  
Usual rate: £131. Offer rate: £98.25. Average dinner: £23. Not available Christmas and New Year. Situated on the banks of the River Thames, the hotel two bottles of award winning Chiltern Valley fine English wines and a personal guided tour of the vineyard followed by a tasting.

### BUCKS

**The Priory Hotel, 70-72 High Street, Whitechurch, Aylesbury, HP22 4JS.** (0296 641239).  
Usual rate: £110. Offer rate: £82.50. Average dinner: £25.50. Not available at Christmas. The hotel offers either an hours personal tuition in any riding discipline by Pauline Ricketts day's fly-fishing, trout or an afternoon's clay pigeon shoot with the current world champion.

### DORSET

**The Carlton Hotel, East Overcliff, Bournemouth, BH1 3DN.** (0202 552011).  
Usual rate: £150. Offer rate: £112.50. Average dinner: £23.50. Not available Christmas and New Year or Easter. Miles of golden sands stretch below this hotel on Bournemouth's East Cliff offers either a sport of kings, real tennis the ultimate racket game or be pampered in our health club with a full range of treatments.

### EAST SUSSEX

**Hooley Hall, Uckfield, TN22 1EN.** (0825 761578).  
Usual price: £75. Offer price: £56.25. Average dinner: £20. Not available Christmas and New Year. Dinner not available Sunday and Monday nights. A Queen Anne town house, easy for ideally situated for riding in the Ashdown forest or shopping in Brighton. The hotel offers a 70 per cent reduction on third night's stay and a further 50 per cent off subsequent nights.

**White Friars Hotel, Boreham Street, Near Hertsmere, BN27 4SE.** (0323 832355).  
Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £15.95. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. This English country house hotel was originally built in the 16th century and still has an authentic atmosphere with traditional oak beams. A bottle of Moet and Chandon champagne in the room on arrival and a round of golf at nearby Wellsbury Golf Club.

### ESSEX

**The Cricketers Arms, Rickling Green, Saffron Walden, CB11 3YG.** (079988 322).  
Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £16.50. Not available 21 December to 3rd January. Overlooking the cricket green this inn is very close to the picturesque town of Saffron Walden and offers either a framed copy of the 1882 Rickling Cricket score, 920 runs in a single innings or A table espada set (Madieran Kebab) as used in the Cricketers Arms.

**Whitehall Hotel, Church Road, Broomfield, CM6 2BZ.** (0279 650603).  
Usual rate: £105. Offer rate: £78.75. Average dinner: £33.50. Not available at Christmas and New Year. This Elizabethan style manor house dates from the 12th century and is only a short drive from Stansted Airport. The hotel offers either a visit to a race meeting at Newmarket: tickets for the Arts Theatre Cambridge or the London Coliseum or a champagne picnic luncheon.

### HAMPSHIRE

**Fifehead Manor, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, SO20 8EG.** (0264 781565).  
Usual rate: £95. Offer rate: £71.25. Average dinner: £24. Not available Christmas and New Year. Disabled guests welcomed. Stonehenge, Winchester Cathedral and Wilton House are all close to this historic manor dating back to the 11th century offering your second evening dinner free inclusive of pre-dinner drink.



**The Montagu Arms Hotel.** Palace Lane, Beaulieu, SO42 7ZL (0590 612324). Usual rate: £95.50. Offer rate: £71.92. Average dinner: £23.90. Not available Christmas and New Year or Easter. In the heart of the New Forest, the hotel offers either stay three nights including a Sunday night, the Sunday night's accommodation will be free or stay Sunday and Monday only and Sunday night will be £20 B&B (for two people).

**New Park Manor.** Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, New Forest, SO42 7QH. (0590 23467). Usual rate: £114. Offer rate: £85.50. Average dinner: £19.50. Special offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Formerly a royal hunting lodge this manor house dates back to the 17th century and offers an hour's horse riding per person plus a bottle of champagne on arrival.

**Parkhill Hotel.** Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7FZ. (0703 282944). Usual rate: £82. Offer rate: £61.50. Average dinner: £23.50. Offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Dating back to 1740, the Duke of Clarence built Parkhill as his home hidden in acres of secluded parkland. The hotel offers either a trip on old London Trolley drawn by a pair of Hackneys through the New Forest with lunch in a pub and a country house tea in front of the log fires. In Spring a champagne hamper or Bar-b-que lunch will be provided; or a Times Gourmet Dinner with wine from our cellars, chosen by our wine waiter, coffee and liqueurs (excluding "other" dinner). All guests staying at Parkhill through *The Times* promotion will have their name and addresses entered in our Special Draw to win a fine vintage wine dating back to the year of the winner's birth, accompanied by an original historical issue of *The Times* from the exact day.

**Tyne Hall Hotel.** Rotherwick, Nr Hook, RG27 9AJ. (0256 764881). Usual rate: £114. Offer rate: £85.50. Average dinner: £35. Not available Christmas and New Year. Quote TJI offer when booking. A grade II listed building set in 66 acres of sunning gardens and parkland. Tyne Hall offers upgraded accommodation and afternoon tea (one day only).

## HERTS

**Sopwell House Hotel and Country Club.** Cottonmill Lane, Sopwell, St Albans. (0727 864477). Usual rate: £98.65. Offer rate: £73.98. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Christmas. Weekend bookings preferred. This Georgian manor, once the home of the Mountbattens is set in 12 acres of countryside with a health and fitness spa. The hotel offers a health and fitness break with two treatments per person, including a body massage or facial and a "Wellness Programme", either nutritional analysis and dietary control or stress monitoring.

**Stocks Hotel and Country Club.** Stocks Road, Aldbury, Nr Tring, HP23 5RX. (044285 3411). Usual rate: £100. Offer rate: £75. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available on 25, 26 December. This club has riding and livery stables, four all weather tennis courts, a gymnasium and Jacuzzi, within the grounds of this country home dating back to 1176. The hotel offers either two and a half hour riding lessons or two hours riding per person from our stables for the non rider to drive in our pony and trap. Riding to be arranged at time of reservation according to availability.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

**Clarendon Hotel and Wight House Inn.** Chale, PO38 2HA. (0983 730431). Usual rate: £65.80. Offer rate: £49.35. Average dinner: £12. Not available Christmas and New Year. This 17th century coaching inn overlooks Chale Bay. Tenyson Down and The Needles. The hotel offers £40 off (ferry fare normally £50) plus a bottle of wine to the value of £10. Ferry should be booked by the hotel when guests make a booking. A voucher will then be sent.

## KENT

**Budds House.** Budds Lane, Wittersham, Isle of Oxney, TN27 7EL. (0797-270 204). Usual rate: £50. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner: £25. Offer is available to other activity programmes, for example Isle of Oxney shoot.

This English country house hotel, all rooms have views into the gardens and countryside offers on selected weekends a combination of a luxurious break with expert and individual counselling programmes for couples; £50 is redeemable against the fees for these programmes.

**The Harrow Inn.** Warren Street, Nr Lenham, Maidstone, ME17 2ED. (0622 858727). Usual rate: £58. Offer rate: £43.50. Average dinner: £12. Not available 25 or 26 December. Once a resting place for travellers making a pilgrimage to Canterbury the hotel stands high in the North Kent Downs and a day trip for two people to Nausicaa. The Marine Life Centre in Boulogne (subject to weather conditions permitting crossing).

**Swan Hotel.** The Pantiles, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TD. (0892 541450). Usual rate: £88. Offer rate: £66. Average dinner: £18.50. For a four to five day stay dinner must be taken on two evenings. An 17th century town house located in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The hotel offers a bottle of Moët and Chandon champagne on arrival in your room and house wine with meal, and a trip around "A day at the Wells", a Georgian experience in Tunbridge Wells.

## LONDON

**The Beaufort.** 33 Beaufort Gardens, SW3 1PP. (071-584 5252). Usual rate: £195. Offer rate: £146.25. Rate includes all drinks from 24 hour bar and snacks. Close to Harrods the Beaufort has chocolates and sherry in every room and offers a special dinner for two including wine, at the fashionable St Quentin



Gean House: a chance to learn how to handle and fly birds of prey

restaurant plus a £10 Harrods voucher.

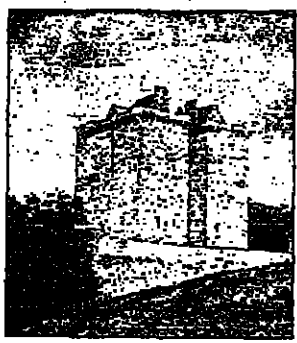
**The Milestone.** 1-2 Kensington Court, W8 5DL. (071 917 1200). Usual rate: £237. Offer rate: £177.75. Average dinner: £22. The Milestone, originally built as a grand mansion, is an example of Victorian architecture situated opposite Kensington Palace. The hotel offers two luxurious white Milestone bath robes approximate value £120.

**The Portland Bloomsbury Hotel.** 7 Montague Street, WC1B 5BP. (071-323 1717). Usual rate: £120. Offer rate: £90. Average dinner: £18. Not available at Christmas. Bookings must be guaranteed by a credit card or deposit. To avoid a charge equal to one night's accommodation, cancellation notification of 7 days is required. Covent Garden is just a minute away from this hotel with many original Regency features. The hotel offers a welcome drink and a basket of fruit on arrival, dinner may be taken from our set menu on an evening of your choice (except Sunday) and then be chauffeur driven for a night to the English National Opera or a show (subject to availability).

**Sydney House.** 9-11 Sydney Street, SW3 6PU. (071-376 7711). Usual rate: £134. Offer rate: £100.50. The hotel is close to the Victoria and Albert Museum, Harrods and the Kings Road. Sydney House is 19th century in appearance and all rooms have their own individual style with names such as Paris, Indian and Mexico. The hotel offers a glass of champagne on arrival plus lunch for two persons (excluding drinks) at Sydney Street Restaurant (not available Sundays).

## OXFORDSHIRE

**The Springs.** Wallingford Road, North Stoke, OX10 0BE. (0491 36877). Usual rate: £117. Offer rate: £87.75. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.



Historic Borthwick Castle

Set in the Thames Valley in 30 acres of wooded grounds close to Oxford and Windsor. The hotel offers champagne, fruit, flowers and chocolates in your room on arrival.

## SURREY

**Langshot Manor.** Langshot, Horley, RH6 9LN. (0293 786680). Usual rate: £114. Offer rate: £85.50. Average dinner: £22.50. Not available 24 to 29 December inclusive. A restored Elizabethan manor house just a few minutes from Gatwick Airport. The hotel offers free car parking for up to 2 weeks and courtesy car to Gatwick airport (this service worth in excess of £50 based on current airport parking rates).

**Pennyhill Park Hotel and Country Club.** London Road, Bagshot, GU19 5ET. (0276 71774). Usual rate: £146. Offer rate: £109.50. Average dinner: £28. Not available 31 December. A mansion house dating back to the mid 19th century, the hotel offers either one hour tuition in either horse riding or clay pigeon shooting for 2 persons plus one hour tuition in tennis for 2 persons.

**Richmond Gate Hotel and Restaurant.** Richmond Hill, Richmond, TW10 6KP. (081 940 0061). Usual rate: £105. Offer rate: £78.75. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available 31 December. An Irish sporting lodge in the Connemara valley by a lake. The hotel offers either free salmon fishing for two people for a day on exclusive fly water at Delphi (February 1 to 30 April), or a free original watercolour painting of the Delphi Valley.



Gean House: a chance to learn how to handle and fly birds of prey

restaurant plus a £10 Harrods voucher. October or 15 to 16 January inclusive. Adjacent to Richmond Park, this collection of 18th century Georgian houses is set in a private walled garden, at the top of Richmond Hill with views over the Thames Valley. The hotel offers afternoon tea with home made scones in front of a roaring fire, or in our walled garden and then visit Richmond's Victorian theatre.

## WEST SUSSEX

**Alexander House.** Turners Hill, RH10 4QD. (0342 714914). Usual rate: £185. Offer rate: £138.75. Average dinner: £40. Not available at Bank Holidays. This mansion in 135 acres of parkland houses works of art and offers a flying lesson, in association with Southern Air, a half an hour trial lesson from Shoreham Airport in a fixed wing aircraft.

**Chequers Hotel.** Church Place, Pulborough, RH20 1AD. (0798 872486). Usual rate: £65. Offer rate: £48.75. Average dinner: £15.50. Not available Christmas. A Queen Anne listed building near Brighton, Roman Chichester, Arundel Castle and other stately homes offers either the Chequers celebration champagne breakfast (one morning); a gourmet dinner at normal table d'hôte price (one evening); or afternoon tea and homemade cake on arrival. The dinner is not available to guests dining on subsequent night(s).

**The Millstream Hotel and Restaurant.** Bosham, Chichester, PO18 8HL. (0243 573234). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £74.25. Average dinner: £16.75. Not available Christmas and Easter. A 16th century manor house linked to the manor house, close to Chichester and offering a lunch or dinner for two, plus tickets to the Chichester Festival Theatre, a tour of Chichester Harbour, visiting various local attractions. Contact Jens Hassbach to book your tailor-made break.

**Ockenden Manor.** Ockenden Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5LD. (0444 416111). Usual rate: £130. Offer rate: £97.50. Average dinner: £25.50. Offer not available 24 to 27 December. £50 deposit required per booking. First recorded in 1520, the manor is situated in the centre of this Tudor village and offers a chance to bring your friends to dinner free! Two table d'hôte dinners plus a bottle of house wine on any night except Saturday.

**Spread Eagle Hotel.** South Street, Midhurst, GU29 9NH. (0730 816911). Usual rate: £92.50. Offer rate: £69.37. Average dinner: £25.75. Offer not available over Christmas, New Year and Valentines night. Dating from 1430 this charming former coaching inn offers you the chance to bring your friends for dinner free! Two table d'hôte dinners plus a bottle of house wine on any night except Saturday.

**Sussex Pad Hotel.** Old Shoreham Road, Lancing, BN15 0RH. (0273 454647). Usual rate: £72. Offer rate: £54. Average dinner: £20. A newly renovated hotel at the foot of the South Downs, close to Brighton and Worthing, offers a pleasure flight by light aircraft over the Sussex Downs or coast or an introductory flying lesson at Shoreham Airport.

## IRELAND

**Delphi Lodge.** Leenane, Co Galway. (010-35395 42211). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas and New Year. An Irish sporting lodge in the Connemara valley by a lake. The hotel offers either free salmon fishing for two people for a day on exclusive fly water at Delphi (February 1 to 30 April), or a free original watercolour painting of the Delphi Valley.



Gean House: a chance to learn how to handle and fly birds of prey

**Mount Juliet.** Thomastown, Co Kilkenny. (010-35356 24455). Usual rate: £181.45. Offer rate: £130.75. Average dinner: £30. Not available Christmas and New Year. Valid until March 31st. The hotel offers each person either horse riding, clay target, archery, fishing or nine holes golf on a championship course.

**Tullinisk.** Birr, Co Offaly. (010-353509 20572). Usual rate: £186. Offer rate: £145. Average dinner: £38.75. Offer rate: £138.75. Average dinner: £40. Not available at Bank Holidays. An 18th century dower house of the Earls of Rosse, offers golfers, free green fees for one day only; or for fishermen and boat watchers, free boat hire on River Shannon for one day only; or for cyclists, free mountain bike hire and free collection and return to and from nearest airport or station.

## SCOTLAND

**Ballathie House Hotel.** Kindavon by Stanley, Nr Perth, Perthshire, PH11 4QN. (0250 883268). Usual rate: £100. Offer rate: £75. Average dinner: £23. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Master Rooms £10 per room per night extra. This hotel with a French baronial exterior, overlooks the River Tay and offers either tickets on one day in Perth or Pictory Theatre (one per person) or table d'hôte dinner on the third night free. Children accommodated free in parents' room.

**Borthwick Castle.** North Middleton, Midlothian, EH23 4QY. (0875 20514). Usual rate: £125. Offer rate: £93.75. Average dinner: £25. Not available at Christmas. Once the refuge of Mary Queen of Scots this castle is just twelve miles from Edinburgh and offers two tickets for *The Woman in Black* and a tour of Edinburgh's ghostly city haunts! Theatre tickets available Monday to Friday only, subject to availability. Cameron House Hotel and

**Country Estate.** Loch Lomond, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, G83 8QZ. (0389 55565). Usual rate: £138. Offer rate: £103.50. Average dinner: £16. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. All bookings must quote reference TJI. This hotel on the shores of Loch Lomond, offers a full day's golf pass including club hire for two, for our nine hole "Wee Demon" course with morning coffee beforehand.

**Channings.** South Larmouth Gardens, Edinburgh, EH4 1EZ. (031-315 2226). Usual rate: £95. Offer rate: £71.25. Average dinner: £16. Not available Christmas, New Year or 15-16 January and 18-20 February inclusive. This hotel converted from five Edwardian town houses, is located in a cobbled street near the city centre and offers up to a half day chauffeur driven limousine around Edinburgh, with a visit to the Scotch Whisky heritage centre beside Edinburgh Castle. Chauffeur hire subject to availability.

**Coul House Hotel.** Contin by Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9EY. (0997 421487). Usual rate: £69. Offer rate: £51.75. Average dinner: £20.50. This hotel is close to the Glenfiddich distillery and the Culloden battle field and offers an extra night's accommodation for two free of charge plus half litre house wine with each dinner for two and free entrance to Urquhart Castle and Inverewe Tropical Gardens.

**Craigendarroch Hotel and Country Club.** Braemar Road, Ballater, Royal Deeside, AB35 5XA. (03397 55858). Usual rate: £125. Offer rate: £93.75. Average dinner: £16. Three night Christmas package available with 25% off accommodation and breakfast element only. Not available New Year or Easter. All bookings must quote reference TJI. This Highland hotel offers a free lesson per person per day on our 75m dry ski slope, including equipment hire, professional instruction and a glass of glühwein afterwards.

**Enmore Hotel.** Kilm. Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8HH. (0369 2230). Usual rate: £77. Offer rate: £57.75. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Built in 1785 as a summer retreat for a wealthy cotton merchant, this hotel is set in Dunoon, known as "a jewel on the Clyde" and offers a trip to Inverary Jail with champagne and chocolates on your return.

**Farley House Hotel.** Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2JE. (0887 820332). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £15. Not available 24 to 26 or 31 December. Please quote TJI when booking. This hotel overlooks the Tay Valley and offers free membership to the Kenmore Club, champagne in your room on arrival with a surprise gift to take home.

**The Gean House Restaurant and Country House Hotel.** Gean Park, Alloa, Near Stirling, FK10 2HS. (0259 219275). Usual rate: £140. Offer rate: £105. Average dinner: £27.50. Not available 24 to 26 December or 30 December to 2 January inclusive. This house was built in 1912, retains many original features with views of the nearby Ochil Hills. The hotel offers a special Times gourmet menu has been created, by chef/proprietor Antony Mifsud, exclusively for privilege card holders; a chance to learn to handle and fly birds of prey in association with The British School of Falconry at Braco Castle, you will be presented with a voucher (value £50) which can be used against the cost (£100 per couple); enjoy a round of golf at a local course, then return for afternoon tea; or reserve dinner for a third night and receive a bedroom.

**Gleddoch House Hotel.** Langbank, Renfrewshire, PA14 6YE. (0475 54711). Usual rate: £130. Offer rate: £97.50. Average dinner: £29.50. Not available 30, 31 October; 20, 21 November; 4, 5 December; 24 December-2 January inclusive. This hotel is set in its own 250 acre estate with views over the Clyde towards the hills. The hotel offers a golf clinic on Saturday morning followed by a round of golf and on Sunday morning a scenic helicopter trip over the Clyde and the Troasachs.

**Inverly House.** Bridge of Feugh, Banochry, Kinross, Royal Deeside, AB31 3NJ. (03302 4782). Usual rate: £120. Offer rate: £90. Average dinner: £33.50. Not available at Christmas or New Year. The hotel offers a livery House decanter, made to specification from a Victorian original and accompanied with a bottle of our special house claret.

The hotel offers a livery House decanter, made to specification from a Victorian original and accompanied with a bottle of our special house claret.

**Johnstounburn House Hotel.** Humber, Near Edinburgh, East Lothian, EH36 5PL. (087533 696). Usual rate: £125. Offer rate: £93.75. Average dinner: £25. Not available Christmas, New Year, Easter minimum 3 nights. Dating from the early 17th century this hotel is 15 miles from Edinburgh and situated at the foot of the



Log fires and hot toddies: the Parkhill Hotel, Lyndhurst

Lammermuir Hills and offers either your choice of horse riding, clay shooting, all terrain or jeep off road; or a chauffeur driven limousine return to Edinburgh.

**Manor Park Hotel.** Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, PA17 5HE. (0475 520832). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £19.50. This hotel, built in 1840, with an oak staircase, portals and log fires offers a six course dinner for two plus a bottle of Portage wine on one other evening, apart from the chosen evening when guests must dine.

**Norton House.** Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8LX. (031-333 1275). Usual rate: £110. Offer rate: £82.50. Average dinner: £19.95. Not available 20 February. A Victorian mansion set in 55 acres, combining modern comforts with touch of old world charm and elegance, and offering either a full day's skiing, theatre tickets, a round of golf (subject to availability), plus upgrade to executive bedroom with a bottle of wine.

**Parklands.** St Leonard's Bank, Perth, PH2 8EB. (0738 224511). Usual rate: £100. Offer rate: £75. Average dinner: £22.50. Not available 24 December to 6 January inclusive. Now extensively refurbished, Parklands was once the home of the Lord Provost of the City of Perth. The hotel offers two free tickets to Perth Theatre and bottle of champagne in room.

**Palmly House Hotel.** Drumadroch, Inverness, IV3 6XT. (04562 343). Usual rate: £100. Offer price: £75. Average dinner: £20. An Edwardian highland house set in a superb location close to Loch Ness, the hotel offers dinner for two with coffee and a bottle of house wine.

**Thainstone House Hotel and Country Club.** Thainstone, Inverclyde, Aberdeen, AB51 9NT. (0467 21643). Usual rate: £118.50. Offer rate: £88.88. Average dinner: £15. Quote The Times Johansens offer.



Elegant manor: Ynysir Hall, near Machynlleth

This hotel offers a trip to Royal Deeside visiting Balmoral Castle and Lochanagass Distillery and a bottle of house wine and home made sweets; plus welcome decanter of sherry and shortbread.

**Tormankin Hotel.** Glendevon, By Dollar, Perthshire, FK14 7JY. (0259-781 252). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £23. Not available 23 December to 3 January, or 10-21 January when we are closed. This old inn, sympathetically restored to provide guests with every comfort, offers Times readers either eighteen holes of golf, art tuition or day pigeon shooting at Scotland's most prestigious club. Details on booking. Clay pigeon shooting is available for guests staying four or five nights only.

## WALES

**Berthwyd Hall Hotel.** Conwy, Gwynedd, LL32 8DQ. (0492 592409). Usual rate: £83. Offer rate: £62.25. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Christmas and Easter. This Victorian manor offers a bottle of champagne and a round of golf at Conwy's championship course.

**Bontddu Hall Country House Hotel.** Bontddu, Nr Dogellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2SU. (0341 49 661). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available Christmas, New Year or Easter.



Log fires and hot toddies: the Parkhill Hotel, Lyndhurst

This gothic country mansion affording with views over the Mawddach Estuary and surrounding countryside offers a free upgrade to our ministerial suites with fresh flowers, fruit and bottle of wine.

**Builth Wells.** Powys, LD2 3NP. (0982 552601). Usual rate: £67. Offer rate: £50.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available Christmas.

The former home of Lord Swansea, now converted into a hotel, offers an upgrade to a four poster room or free clay pigeon tuition.

**Castle View Hotel.** 16 Bridge Street, Chepstow, Gwent, NP23 5EY. (0291 620 349). Usual rate: £59.50. Offer rate: £44.65. Average dinner: £18. Not available Christmas and Easter.

This 17th century ivy-clad hotel offers entry to Chepstow Races. (Tattersalls), a champagne hamper with smoked salmon sandwiches and hand made chocolates. Check dates of racing when booking accommodation.

**Crown at Whitebrook.** Whitebrook, Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 4TX. (0600 860254). Usual rate: £76. Offer rate: £57. Average dinner: £24. Quote Times Johansens when booking. This auberge in the Wye Valley, offers a full set of 1993 Johansens Guides delivered to your home, plus champagne in the room on arrival.



Elegant manor: Ynysir Hall, near Machynlleth

**Dolmelynllyn Hall.** Ganalwyd, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2HP. (0341-40 273). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £22.50. Not available 9 November and 1 March. This hotel offers a choice of pony trekking around Mawddach estuary or a chauffeur-driven guided tour of middle and north Wales or a champagne dinner on the second evening.

**Egerton Grey.** Porthkerry, Near Cardiff, CF6 9BZ. (0446 71 1668). Usual rate: £98. Offer rate: £73.50. Average dinner: £19.50. Offer not available Christmas. This former rectory dating from the early 19th century, Egerton Grey is tucked into a secluded valley with views down to Porthkerry Park, and offers six bottles of Crofta Welsh Wine and a visit to vineyard or a half-hour flight with Cardiff Wales Flying Club in a two seater Tomahawk including a try at the controls.

Must be a minimum of six person group.

**The Lake Country House.** Llangamarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4BS. (05912 202). Usual rate: £95. Offer rate: £71.25. Average dinner: £24.50. Not available Christmas and Easter. Winner of the 1991 Johansens Restaurant of the Year award, the hotel has 50 acres of its own grounds and offers either two days fly fishing; or two days golf plus a bottle of champagne.

**The Lion Hotel and Restaurant.** Berriew, Nr Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, SY21 8PQ. (0686 640452). Usual rate: £70. Offer rate: £52.50. Average dinner: £18. Not available 22 December to 2 January. Booking to made with Mrs J Thomas only. The Lion Hotel, a 17th century inn on the Shropshire borders in one of Wales's prettiest villages offers either a third night's accommodation be free provided all meals are taken at the hotel during your stay.

**The Old Rectory.** Ussanfield Glyn Conwy, Nr Llandudno, Gwynedd, LL28 5LF. (0492 580611). Usual rate: £89. Offer rate: £66.75. Average dinner: £25. Closed 22 December to 1 February. Not available Bank Holidays. This Welsh Georgian house set in large, peaceful gardens offers dinner for one person on second night of stay and £25 repayment off horse riding, golf or other attractions in North Wales.

**Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel.** Penmaenpool, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 1YB. (0341 422129). Usual rate: £110. Offer rate: £82.50. Average dinner: £19.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. Penmaenuchaf Hall stands in 21 acres of lawn and woodland within Snowdonia National Park and offers "Playtime": for the young at heart, daring or careful, choose a from our range of activities from gold panning to aromatherapy, abseiling to guided mountain walking.

**St Brides Hotel.** Saundersfoot, Dyfed, SA69 9NH. (0834 812304). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available 24 December to 25 January or Easter. £10 deposit required on booking. This attractive timbered hotel has a stunning cliff top restaurant with dramatic views over Carmarthen Bay and offers a bottle of chilled champagne in room on arrival, plus an "instant credit" voucher of £20 per room to be spent in the bar, restaurant or lounge during the stay.

**St Tudno Hotel.** Promenade, Llandudno, Gwynedd, LL30 2LP. (0492 874411). Usual rate: £96. Offer rate: £72. Average dinner: £23.50. Not available Christmas, New Year or Easter. This hotel a recent winner of the Johansens Recommended Hotel Award for Excellence offers a half day chauffeur driven car tour, to include the magnificent Caernarvon Castle and the spectacular scenery of Snowdonia.

**Tan-Y-Foel Country House.** Capel Garmon, Llanwrst, Nr Betws-Y-Coed, Gwynedd. (0690 710507). Usual rate: £76. Offer rate: £57. Average dinner: £19.50. Closed from 1 January to 12 February. Not available on any Bank Holidays. The name of this country retreat means "The home under the hillside" and it offers a whole fresh Welsh lamb from the Conwy Valley jointed and vac-packed, ready for the freezer. This offer only available on a five night stay.

**Tre Ysgawen Hall.** Capel Coch, Anglesey, LL77 7UR. (0248 750750). Usual rate: £120.50. Offer rate: £90.37. Average dinner: £20. This hotel offers style and comfort amid beautiful Anglesey countryside with views over Snowdonia offers a choice of £50 worth of wine of your choice during your stay or clay pigeon shooting lesson for two.

**Ynysir Hall.** Eglwysfach, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8TA. (0654 781209). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £20. Not available Christmas, Easter or Bank Holidays. This Georgian manor house offers either a Welsh afternoon tea on arrival; a Welsh hamper of traditional Welsh produce; a visit to a slate mine or historic house (depending on seasonal opening times); a bottle of Welsh wine at dinner.

To stay at any of these hotels at a 25% discount, collect seven Privilege Break tokens, starting on page 16 today



CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Heathcliff** (R) (89597/27) **5.26 Eureka's Castle** (R) (820995/55)  
**Crosstalk**. Teenagers discuss dating, single sex schools, sex  
 parents who are annerberriment (R) (71981/89) **7.25 High 5**  
 (8981/48) **7.25 Treasures** (R) (8981/48) **8.00 News**  
 (8981/48) **8.15 Reading The Morning Line** (44481/4)

10.00 **Kabbadi**. The first of a repeat series of the ancient Asian sport  
 (809596) **10.30 Gazzetta Football Italia**. Paul Gascoline re-  
 opens the opening five week's of the Italian football season (78104)

11.00 **American Football**. Highlights of last week's season (2017)

12.00 **Sighe**. With the *sighe* a new series, aimed at a new generation,  
 everyday issues more accessible to the deaf community (5120)

12.30 **Songs and Memories**. The Pakistan film actor and producer  
 Mohammad Ali selects his favourite film clips (68901)

1.00 **Film: Steamboat Bill, Jr** (1925, BW).  
 (R) CHOICE: Buster Keaton's career *Steamboat Bill Jr* is a  
 photo film. Behind it lay a decade of outstanding creativity that  
 made him, with Chaplin, the screen's outstanding silent comedians.  
 Just ahead lay an astonishing decline which was soon to plunge  
 Keaton into near obscurity. *Steamboat Bill Jr* cannot match the  
 sustained inventiveness of Keaton's masterpieces. The General has  
 a certain magic to relish. Keaton plays a college boy who  
 returns home, alienates his father, a town steamboat captain, by  
 his effete ways, but acts heroically during the cyclone which gives  
 the picture its celebrated climax. The best-known single gag is  
 one in which the side of a house collapses on Buster, who  
 miraculously escapes because he is standing under the open  
 window. (5372861)

2.15 **Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket**. Live coverage of the 22  
 3.00 (Tote Cesarewitch), 3.35, 4.15 (Dubai Champion Stakes) &  
 4.45 races (7934291)

5.00 **Broadside**. Omnibus edition (P. Teetzel) (S) (929635)

6.30 **Rising the Ranks** (repeated) by Shona McDonald, *Baroness* Ser  
 Moore tells the opinions of *Jani Allan* and *George Carman* CD  
 allows television cameras into the courtroom. (Teetzel) (S) (38)

7.00 **Desert Brothers**.  
 (R) CHOICE: Nick Gray's documentary tells the stories of two French  
 monks, linked spiritually by a concern for the poor and  
 organically by a common ancestor, the 17th century French  
 aristocrat who after serving as a soldier in North Africa  
 decided to resign his commission and found a monastic order  
 was killed by armed bandits in 1916 without making a single  
 convert. Today, however, there are members of the Little Brothers  
 Jesus on every continent. They include another French monk  
 Brother Guy, who has lived in Yorkshire for 30 years and who has  
 chosen to work in a factory in the north of England. He has deduced  
 himself to sharing the lives of ordinary people, whether as a  
 steward at his workplace or as a pilgrim to the Foucaud's Algeria  
 retreat, 10,000 feet up in the Hoggar Mountains (S) (1253)

8.00 **Kingdom of the Plains: The Raines Case**. A documentary about  
 how elephants and other wildlife on Kenya's Tsavo plains have  
 been driven away to make room for tourists (2222)

9.00 **Court TV: America On Trial**. Fresh highlights from recent United  
 States court cases (2415)



**Falling to toe the moral line: Clint Eastwood (9-20pm)**

**Pain and strife in Mozambique: Josette Simon (18.00pm)**

- 11.10 News with Dermot Murnaghan. Weather (55272)
- 11.30 Hale and Pace. Gareth and Norman in another collection of comic sketches (r) (60363)
- 12.00 Almost Great American domestic comedy series (1468703)
- 1.00 The Big Game. A series for young Europeans (r) (246712)
- 2.10 The Gig. Barbie Wilde continues her exploration of clubland with visit to the Music Box in Edinburgh, the Tunnel Club in Glasgow and the Riverside in Newcastle (8967079)
- 3.05 New Music. Pop videos and interviews (8590012)
- 4.05 Rhythim 'n' Rag. Asian music magazine (2432166)
- 4.35 The Hit Man and Her. The latest music, news and fashions from the disco scene, presented by Pete Waterman and Michael Schuster (r) (8000000)
- 5.30 UK1. News with Phil Roman (79031). Ends at 6.00

Horses [946437] 1.4

## YORKSHIRE

As London except: 11,500-12,000  
Munsters: Today, (4475) 110 (A13)  
5/09/3982) 250 Firms: Census: Jan. 5-13  
3,465-400 Baywatch (8495595) 5,000-6,000  
Firms: Census: Jan. 5-13  
Nutcracker (833369) 15,000 Black Crow  
(339770) 2,000 The Hit Man and  
(2197) 4,000 Pop Music (52519) 4,300-5,000  
The Music (2412)

## S&C

Spain: 6,000M Heintich (666572) 6,2  
Europe's Capital (6209556) 5,800 Cross  
(7101915) 7,258 High 5 (8681-458) 7,000  
World Sport (842561) 11,900 News (17618) 11,900  
The World's News (44481) 8,000  
10,000 Jolly (60010) 3,000 Gazettea Fort  
Italy - with Paul Gazzera (78104) 11  
- American Football: Gary Azcoff (2017) 12  
- The World's News (44481) 8,000

Music (24012)

<p><b>At London escape:</b> 11:30-12:30 Super  <b>10:00</b> <i>Top Gear</i> (22:45-1:00) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:00</b> <i>Archives</i> (70:00-71) <b>3.20-5.00</b>  <b>Movies</b> <i>James Bond</i> (65:00-2) <b>4.35-4.40</b>  <b>11:40</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (5:00-5:50) <b>1.50</b>  <b>News</b> (8:40-7:55) <b>5.05-5:20</b> <b>Superster</b> (2:45-3:00) <b>1.50</b></p>	<p><b>Talking</b> (19:45-4) <b>7.00</b> <i>News</i> and <i>Sp</i> (71:10-12) <b>7.15</b> <i>News</i> on <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>11:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>12:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>13:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>14:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>15:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>16:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>17:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>18:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>19:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>20:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>21:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>22:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>23:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>24:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:30</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:40</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>25:50</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>26:00</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>26:10</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b>  <b>26:20</b> <i>CRMA</i> (41:10-1) <b>1.50</b></p>
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<b>12.00</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>		
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Money Box</b>		with the trombone, we learn tonight that it is not spit but condensed hot air. An interesting medical footnote:
<b>12.25</b>	<b>The News Quiz: Captains</b>		Guslav Holsed took the trombone because he was so it would help to cure his asthma (s)
	Richard Ingrams and Alan		
	Corn are joined by John		
	Wells and Michael White.		
	Chairman Barry Took (s) 12.55		
	<b>Weather 1.00 News</b>		
<b>1.10</b>	<b>Any Questions?</b> Jonathan	<b>7.50</b>	<b>Classic Serial: The Scarlet</b>
	Arncliffe joined in Stirling.		Letter, by Nathaniel
	Lincolnshire, by David Grey,		Hetherstone. Dramatised by
	director of <i>Crimin' Jour</i>		Gavin Smith

1. **MS's Austin Mitchell and Terrell** (m) (1.55) Shipping Forecast  
 2.00 **News: Any Answer?** (071-55) News: any news open from 12.30pm  
 2.30 **Saturday Playhouse: We** (1.55) *Went to the Ball* by P.J. Gallagher. A football coach stumbles upon a scandal and a murder. With John Teller as Fichte (s)  
 3.45 **Lunching the Holy-Cowley:** (1.55) *How to Eat* by John Teller that having lunch is vital to getting a television drama made (s)  
 4.00 **News: You Don't Have to Work to Be Mild** (New) (1.55) *See You Now*, with Anna Grayson  
 5.00 **The Living World: Lional** (1.55) *Kingdoms of the Deep* of Dartmouth, looking at the plants that have learned to live on toxic spoil heaps  
 5.30 **Simon talks to** (1.55) *Handland Dorris* takes to the stage  
 5.50 **Ten to Ten**, led by Canon John Gunstone (s) 5.59  
 6.00 **News: 10.00** (1.55)  
 10.15 **Whirly Birds are Got An** (1.55) *Invitation to fly* with members of a women-only helicopter club (s)  
 10.45 **Joining the Cuts:** Anthony (1.55) *How to Eat* by John Teller that journalists to remember the first steps in his career (1.55) *See You Now*, with Anna Grayson  
 11.00 **News: 11.00** (1.55) *Green Invites the company* (1.55) *See You Now*, with Anna Grayson  
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## 21

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport** (j) (41760) 7.00 **Take 5** For the very top (10215) 7.30 **Laurel and Hardy**, **Cartoon** (4020147) 7.35 **Li'l Wizzards**, **Animation** (4713760) 8.00 **Sandokan**, **Animation** (113 820) **Wahik Kid**, **Animation** (10054)

9.00 **Tintin** The first of a new series of animated adventures of **Herge's** hero (1814128) 9.25 **Laurel and Hardy**, **Animation** (2947128) 9.50 **Dennis** Cartoon adventures of a mischievous boy and his best friend (183895)

9.45 **Flipper**, **Adventures of a friendly dolphin** (187760) 10.15 **W. H. Lister** **Were Horses**, **Last in the series following the fortunes of a group of mixed ability children learning to ride** (j) (s) (179741)

10.45 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea** **Classic underwater adventure series starring Richard Basehart** (861944) 11.45 **Little House on the Prairie**, **A feature-length episode about the close-knit family of pioneer homesteaders**, stars **Michael Landon** and **Burl Ives**, **When Charles is seriously injured in a hunting accident, a blind rescuer comes to the rescue** (4417302)

11.00 **Films: Rawhide** (1951, b/w) **starring Tyrone Power and Susan Hayward**, **Western drama about a gang of outlaws who terrorise the inhabitants of the remote stagecoach station**, **Directed by Henry Hathaway** (5435970)

2.45 **Football Italia**, **The game between AC Milan and Lazio**, **TV commentator is Peter Brackley** (2251741)

3.00 **Four-Mations**, **Song**, **Boogie Dooze, Colour Box and Rambler**, **Dance, classic abstracts set to popular music** (5384234)

5.10 **News summary and weather** (9359031)



**Husband and wives: Bellingham, Bolam and Lang (7.15pm)**

7.15 **Second Thoughts**. The sitcom returns with Faith (Linda Belandier) in a stew after discovering that daughter Hannah is sleeping with her boyfriend. With James Boleam and Belinda Lane (Oracle) (3) (350789)

7.45 **The Ruth Rendell Mysteries**. Episode one of a two-part murder story *The Mouse in the Corner* in which DCI Wexford investigates the murder of a supposedly popular farmer whose family throw up a wall of silence surrounding the alert. Starring George Baker and Christopher Ravenscroft. (Oracle) (126944)

8.45 **London Burning**. This week Blackfire Fire Station's Blue Watch have to deal with the damage caused by a motorway pile-up. (Oracle) (469302)

9.45 **News** with Dermot Murmahgan. Weather (195296)

10.05 **Spitting Image**. The latest puppets lampoon another selection of celebrities (223925)

10.35 **The South Bank Show**: Peter O'Toole.

o CHOICE: Introduced by Mervyn Bagg as "a rarely interviewed northern Irish-South Wales style life maverick", and by saying that in a hurry, Peter O'Toole reflects on growing up in industrial Leeds, his easy-going bookie father and a childhood terror of Adolf Hitler. The cynical may say he is simply promulgating his forthcoming memoirs, in which these elements bulk large. But since the book promises to be more original and rewarding than most showbiz lives, the plug may be excused. At any rate O'Toole is a seductive guide to his early experiences, whether musing it with the tic-tac men on Portlarcarr racecourse, whether in the mean streets of Hunslet or shinning up to the top of Burns to see the first of his first film leadings. As actor O'Toole relishes the irony that in the film *Rogue Male* he played Hitler's would-be assassin (514321)

11.35 **Prisoner**. Cell Block H (801654)

12.30am **Quiz Night**. Inter pub and club competition (2781513)

12.55 **Motorsport Special** (4350342)

1.15 **Film: The Leopard** (1984). Thriller set in Africa (468203)

3.05 **Up the Junction**. Comedy with Rowland Irwin (3335118)

4.00 **Look Back in Anger**. The best from the poems recorded by Eamon Holmes (4736334)

5.05 **The ITV Chart Show** (9) (3) (230702)

5.15 **Jobfinder** (1038151)

5.30 **ITV Morning News** (96971). Ends at 6.00

5.15 **Greed and glory:** Christopher Hird, who is no stranger to vench business documentaries, presents a three-part investigation into the workings of the City of London. What with the Guinness trial, Maxwell pension fund scandal and the huge losses at Lloyd's, has much to talk about. These particular firms are dealt with in week. Tonight's opener is an overview of the past decade which suggests that Thatcherism has a lot to answer for. On the one hand it's caused deregulation, and on the other it's put in place a system, Nigel Lawson says, that's out of control. On the other hand it's intervened to subsidise office blocks, such as Canary Wharf, which there was little demand. Agree with him or not, Hird is a lively and combative guide, though the financially ignorant may find some of his coverage a shade technical. (1937079)

6.30 **Miraculous Meltopps** Australian fantasy series about a remarkable man. (198)

6.30 **The Cosby Show** American family comedy starring Bill Cosby (Teletext) (606)

7.00 **Equinox: Antichaos.** A documentary about a new breed of scientists who are attempting to understand and predict how harmony can arise from chance. (Teletext) (56925)



**A brush with royal history: the Prince of Wales (8.00pm)**

**6.00 The Royal Collection.** The Prince of Wales introduces a six-part series on the greatest private collection of paintings in the world, described by the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, Christopher Lloyd. (Teletext) (s) (3857)

**8.30 American Football.** The featured games are the Philadelphia Eagles at the Washington Redskins and the Kansas City Chiefs at the Dallas Cowboys (1994-4)

**10.00 Film: The Cruel Sea** (1953, b/w) *The British at War* season continues with this worthy Ealing drama, based on the bestseller by Nicholas Monsieff, about a Royal Navy corvette and her role in the battle for the Atlantic. Starring Jack Hawkins, Denholm Elliott as Donald Sinden. (Teletext) (654/49383)

**12.20am Film: I, the Worst of All** (1980) starring Assumpta Serna. Spanish drama telling the story of the last years of the 17th-century writer and poet, Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz, who was forced to renounce her writings by her Roman Catholic superiors. Directed Maria Luisa Bemberg. In Spanish with English subtitles (31750) Ends at 2.20

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Big League

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**EUROSPORT**

● **Win the Astra satellite**  
10.00am Speedy Aerobics (2016) 9.90 Eurodan  
Magazine (58437) 10.00 Eurozone Magazine  
Series (71578) 11.00 Times Series 1.00pm  
(69654) 12.00 Sport (3147) 1.00pm  
Tennis (77555) 2.00 Tennis (6100) 4.00  
Beach Volleyball (35147) 5.00 Acrobatic  
Cycling Championship (37844) 7.00 Sportive  
News — Paris (6102) 8.00 Eurozone  
Magazine (71578) 10.00 Times (1602)  
12.00-1.00pm Eurozone Magazine (36900)

**SCREENSPORT**

● **Win the Astra satellite**  
10.00am Motorcycling (12716) 7.00 Giffen  
Magazine (58437) 10.00 Eurozone Magazine  
Series (71578) 11.00 Times Series 1.00pm  
(69654) 12.00 Sport (3147) 1.00pm  
Tennis (77555) 2.00 Tennis (6100) 4.00  
Beach Volleyball (35147) 5.00 Acrobatic  
Cycling Championship (37844) 7.00 Sportive  
News — Paris (6102) 8.00 Eurozone  
Magazine (71578) 10.00 Times (1602)  
12.00-1.00pm Eurozone Magazine (36900)

**CNN INTERNATIONAL**

● **Win the Astra satellite**  
Twenty-four hour news news outlets.

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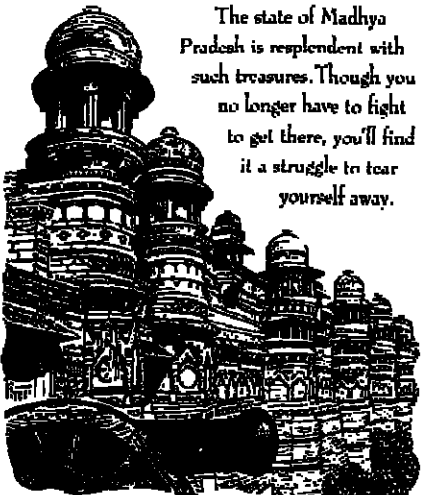
# INDIA

Just south of the Taj Mahal at Agra, Uwalior, greatest of all Hindu fortresses, rises majestically above India's northern plains. Situated at the nation's geographical, historical and metaphorical crossroads, this colossus has been mauled for over a millennium by besieging armies, most notably those of the moghuls, Marathas and British.

The short drive to Shivpuri sees a complete change of pace. Surrounded by the leafy Madhav National Park, this old summer capital of exquisite palaces and cool lakes charmed the warriors of the past to lay their weapons aside and relax.

And so to the peaceful medieval riverside town of Orchha. Three palaces cluster inside its fortress, all rich in romance, yet time (and tourism) seems to have passed them by.

The state of Madhya Pradesh is replete with such treasures. Though you no longer have to fight to get there, you'll find it a struggle to tear yourself away.



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**92.4-94.8:** Radio 5; 630k/2/433m; 900k/2/330m. LBC: 1152K/2/267m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548K/2/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458K/2/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: 1M/241/1600m; Channel 4: 51.1/100-100



# More ups and downs than hems

Linda Evangelista is not a Caribbean resort, Lynne Truss discovers during her eye-opening look at the fashion game



"DID you have a successful day, dear?" asked someone on *The House of Eliott* (BBC1), last Sunday. The choice of question was significant. Given that the fashion business itself is all about degrees of success, there is no point asking anything else. "Design any nice frocks today?" you might ask, but you wouldn't really be interested in the answer. No, the point is, as those lovely sisters currently up or down, as they forge through the year 1924? Well, watch them go up, watch them come down, basically. Just pity the viewer who forgot to stock up on graph paper at the start of the series: or who suffers *mal de mer* in the perpetual pitch and swirl.

If the BBC were really smart it would market a *House of Eliott* board-game for Christmas, based on snakes and ladders. What's this? A six! They attract a new client who is a Lady in Waiting! Up they go, on the little ladder! But their finances are in the clutches of the evil Mister Saroyan, who has evidently been buying himself a knighthood with their well-earned dosh! Down, down the long, fat snake! A commission to design costumes for an avant-garde ballet? Up to the left on a steep! But the ballet is a disastrous flop! Oh, snakey, snakey, they are yours. Somebody in last week's episode pretended to see a family resemblance between Beatrice (Stella Gonet) and Evangeline (Louise Lombard), which made this viewer say "Ho hum" impatiently. Bea and Evie (as I fondly think of them) were self-evidently born not just to different parents but to very different dramatic purposes, both indispensable in the circumstances. Bea's strength is that she makes a fine recipient of good news — she swells visibly, her eyelashes rise to a point, and she lights up all over, saying: "Oh Jack, that's wonderful!" Meanwhile Evie's complementary forte ("Troubled") is likewise played for all it's worth. She casts down her eyes, bites her lip, and lets a quiver of misgiving flash across her face. No, no, it's good. Really.

I don't remember the first series being so banal; perhaps I was dazzled by the couture. But whereas the current series of *Trainer* (BBC1, Wednesday) is a huge improvement on the first (more pace, more David McCallum), the second series of *The House of Eliott* seems to

## TV REVIEW

have put all its effort into the hiring of cars, a quirky decision that has not paid off, in my opinion. There are now so many period vehicles in *The House of Eliott* that our transport museums must be echoing caverns with cobwebs. Why must Evie get involved with a racing driver? Think of the expense of those reconstructed race meets. In the first series, the exterior shots (terraces, road) showed occasional vehicles, as a bit of a treat; but now the street is virtually in gridlock. No wonder Mrs Ranby got knocked down and killed last Sunday. It was an accident waiting to happen.

It is quite a shock switching over from *The House of Eliott* on Sunday nights to BBC2's *The Look*, because although the subject is the same (fashion, money) the difference in mental concentration required is absolutely staggering. *The Look* is a tightly constructed series packed with demanding commentary and flashing with wit and image. No second-guessing the script here ("Jack, that's wonderful!" we now chorus wearily at home in the *H of E*). No, *The Look* bounces along so quickly with information that you are forever saying: "How many million dollars?" and missing the next bit. For someone who previously thought Versace rhymed with Face, and that Linda Evangelista was a resort in the Caribbean, *The Look* has been a real eye-opener.

The *Eliott* sisters could really learn something from this lot. Of their two featured collections so far, one was a raging success, while of course for the sake of balance the other was not. What is clear from *The Look* is that they should immediately get into licensing — putting the *House of Eliott* label on accessories, perfume, or car rugs and hubcaps if necessary. They are slow off the mark in this area. A couple of weeks ago, Calvin Klein told the story of how he came up with the name for his perfume Eternity, through buying an eternity ring for his wife. In *The House of Eliott* a week later, Jack gave Beatrice an eternity ring on her wedding anniversary, but unfortunately she lacked the instinct for the marketing main chance. Instead she just said (all together, now) "Jack, that's wonderful!" Which just goes to prove we can't all be Calvin Klein.

Actually, one of the best moments of *The Look* (so far) made this point exactly, in a brief sequence of shots in which famous designers identified themselves.



High on haute couture: *The House of Eliott* and *The Look* prove that fashion types never say, "Design any good frocks today?"

"My name is Ralph Lauren," "My name is Giorgio Armani," "My name is Christian Lacroix," "My name is Calvin Klein." Wow. It was a weird sensation, like watching *Hamlet* for the first time as an adult and recognising all the quotes. How can any person, qua person, possibly be Giorgio Armani? This is category confusion, surely. To say "I went to school with Calvin Klein" is like saying you went to school with Christmas.

Anyway, what has become achingly clear from *The Look* is that no one ever says "Design any good frocks today?" in the real world of fashion, either. Success is everything; success is the only message that modern clothes are designed to convey; at the Paris shows, successful celebrities sit alongside successful journalists and watch successful models. Backstage afterwards, they all kiss the designer

and say it was a great — er, success, partly because their vocabulary has atrophied to the one word. Giorgio Armani is so highly successful, by the way, that he confesses he no longer knows how to get on a bus. I wonder if this news is supposed to make the rest of us feel better?

Fashion is a nightmare as well as a dream, of course, because it has to keep moving, and can't ever stop. On Tuesday's *Woman's Hour*, I heard it said that the latest fashion is plucking your eyebrows really thin. A la Seventies, at which I stopped the car and burst into tears. Will we also have to listen to Amen Corner? Well, if they want my eyebrows, I decided, they will just have to fight me for them. But as I blew my nose pathetically, I suddenly realised that such fashion decrees had no power over me, anyhow. The comforting thing about fashion is that, despite all its money, glitz and press coverage,

there remain millions of people who are supremely untouched by it. Say to them with a nudge, "Brown is the new black" and they will assume you are rambling to no purpose. Say, "You'd look better with no eyebrows" and they will knock you down.

The other week, in *The House of Eliott*, Evie had dinner with her racing-driver boyfriend, and we were allowed to eavesdrop a tidbit of their conversation. Evie smiled, her fork poised in mid-air, as she listened intently. "1924," said James tenderly, "is going to be Bentley's year." She looked serenely happy at this dreary bulletin from *What Car* 1923, which perhaps goes to prove that love is blind. But perhaps the point was this: James is a trend-spotter, like the *Eliott* sisters. "So modern! So stylish!" they say when confronted with anything new. Get a Bentley! Go to difficult ballet! Adore the Impressionists! When Lord Alexander Montfort told Evie recently that the

Paris exhibition had been "modern" and "stylish", her eyeballs sprang into sympathetic flame like a gas cookability ad.

Jean Cocteau said that whereas art produces ugly things that sometimes grow beautiful over time, fashion produces beautiful things that invariably become ugly. He might have added, I think, that while the process with art can be quite slow, the process with fashion is virtually instantaneous. In my experience, garments can sometimes lose their patina of newness in the time it takes to get home on the bus (Armani will have to trust me on that). What a very bold stroke, then, for a fashion designer to call his perfume Eternity, when the whole rag-trade business thrives by re-inventing itself every 15 minutes, amid disco-beat, fanfare and flash-bulbs. But the moral of the story is that, in the end, of course, Calvin Klein's Eternity was not enough for ever, and along came something else.

## TV PREVIEW

● **Animal Squad Undercover** (Monday, Channel 4, 9pm)  
Attacks on camera crews often make for extraordinary television. "It was at this point," says Roger Cook (or the *Watchdog* reporter), "that things started to get out of hand." Barty men in shell suits suddenly approach the camera in a threatening manner, one of them ominously carrying a baseball bat. The picture freezes, for our convenience. "Now, watch this man," we are told; and on cue the man, too close to the camera to be in focus, raises a blurred fist, and the picture goes all sideways, amid grunts.

Monday's *Animal Squad Undercover* focuses on two RSPCA missions tending lorry-loads of livestock across the Continent, and ends with a nasty scuffle at an abattoir, where an agitated Italian slaughterer, actually runs amok with a stun gun. The series is certainly a corrective (if any were needed) to the idea that the RSPCA spends its time winding bandages around doggies paws.

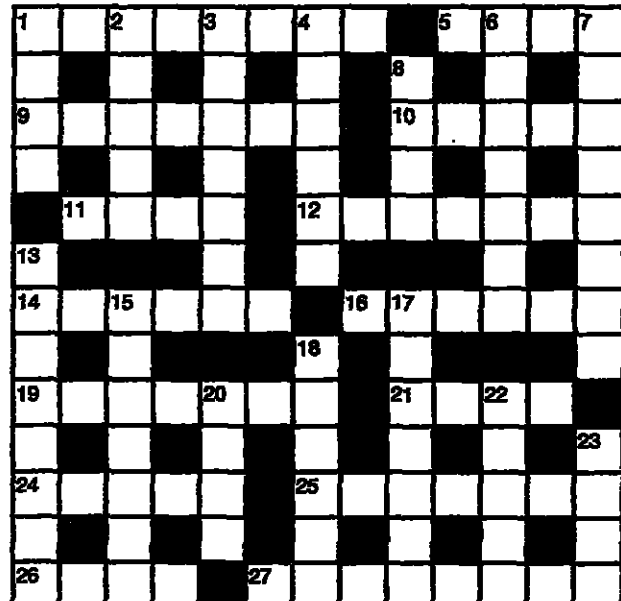
● **Pole to Pole** (Wednesday, BBC1, 9.30pm)  
The story goes that in Russia there is a great railway which runs in an absolutely straight line from one remote city to another, with just two little detours, like humps, interrupting the perfect linearity. "Why the humps?" people asked. Because when the Tsar drew the route on a map he used a ruler ("From here — to here") and the bumps were where his fingertips overlapped the edge.

The route for Michael Palin's new travel series looks rather similar. The idea is that he travels from North Pole to South Pole along a straight line of longitude (30° east) — but one is bound to notice the old "Tsar's fingertips" effect from time to time. What a good idea for a travel series, though; and how cunning of him to choose a degree of longitude that takes in so much land mass (Scandinavia, Europe, Egypt, and the length of Africa). Imagine the disaster if he had plumped for 30° west, where the distant view of the Azores would be the only relief to a whole top-to-bottom eight weeks of lonely sea.

● **Splendid Hearts** (Friday, BBC2, 9.30pm)  
Part of the War and Peace season, this Friday-night series on war memorials is deeply poignant without being in the least exploitative. It is marvellous, humane television. The relatives of the war-dead talk about people who died 50 or even 75 years ago, yet their grief is so fresh and vivid it touches all your own feelings of loss. Next week's programme, *Run-rymede*, is about Air Force men and women with no known grave, and is almost unbearably moving.

L.T.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD No 292 I



ACROSS  
1 Film chief (8)  
5 Laundry (4)  
9 Planned (7)  
10 Marching (5)  
11 Decisive part (4)  
12 Caraway spirit (7)  
14 Supporting (2,4)  
16 Necessary majority (6)  
19 Iona saint (7)  
21 Backpack (4)  
24 Speedster (5)  
25 Wink at (7)  
26 Ceremonial (4)  
27 Ship's cheap quarters (8)

DOWN  
1 Thrust (4)  
2 Alternative (5)  
3 Unblended (7)  
4 Captivate (6)  
6 Trembling (7)  
7 Game interval (4,3)  
8 Boyfriend (4)  
13 Wizard (8)  
15 Plead for (7)  
17 Derange (7)  
18 Surgical knife (6)  
20 Second Gospel (4)  
22 Swedish currency (5)  
23 In this place (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 292  
ACROSS: 1 St Andrew 2 Morse 3 In a pickle 4 Pin 5 Mail 11 Import 13 Cheese 14 Baffle 19 Thuan 20 Weep 21 War 23 Deal a blow 24 Ready 25 Recorder  
DOWN: 1 Seismic 2 Avarice 3 Drip 4 Eskimo 5 Craft 6 Penny 7 Menorah 12 Custody 15 Fuelled 16 Empower 17 Savage 18 Swore 19 Treat 22 Halo

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Diaferia, Fourche, Chambery 1991. At first sight it would appear that black has got his pieces skewed and forked, and is consequently in trouble. Why is this not the case? Black to move.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.



Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Ng6. The winners are S.A. Rimmer, Leigh-on-Sea; I. Hallas, Roundhay; G. Ruoff, Alveston.

Chess Problem, page 53, Saturday Review

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts (runs on most PCs, telephone Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 Mon-Fri after 4pm or weekends. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

## Dancing king in a neon vest

Caitlin Moran

gives a morning-after report on a steamy Friday all-nighter at a students' club



WHEN the sun has left our part of the world, and gone to be nice to the small children on the other side of the earth, it is then Prowling Time; the streets are our own and we name them so. Bernie, the self-trained coolest guy in the world, and I shimmer through the door of the Club Voyeur, heading barwards and scattering greetings, floating around the tables of hunched-over students whose faces we know, eating their crisps and stealing the words, and sitting on their tables and laughing. We drink. We pose a bit. We drink some more.

There's a person who works behind the bar who says he can always tell how intelligent people are by the way they dance and the way they smoke. He also says he has seen his name written in the sky by one of God's friends, and that he can smell with his feet... but he doesn't object to mixing lager and Bailey's cocktails, so we sweetly disbelieve him, from a distance.

Huddled up underneath a table, and tripping up the booziness and the inebriated with her family-sized Doc Martens, is Claire, around whom most of the graffiti in the toilet revolves.

We decimate a packet of Silk Cut and slander most of the universe together; and later, when we're gasp-headed enough to dance, we stagger on to the dance floor, where Bernie reigns supreme. He will still be shimmering and sliding when I am lying at the side of the dance floor with an intravenous drip of cider dangling from my arm. He choreographs all the cool things he ever heard on television or in film into a neat little clutch on his chest, and dances liquid



Night-clubbing '92: it's crowded, sweaty, deafening and boozy but, for the young, it's cool

semaphore circles around the dance floor carry him to a corner; they make a tunnel of jumpers and cardigans and jackets; they find out who he is, where he lives, and they send him home, fare paid.

We live in a coterie of shabby excellence, we all drift around the same places; the skinny lad could be a friend of a friend of someone we love. He is family. He will also feel like death in the morning.

In the loo, a row of Oxford-gloves girls stand in front of the mirror holding their heads under the cold tap, trying to cool down, trying to put their contact lenses back in, trying to pull the knots out of their hair with their fingers.

There's no point in re-applying make-up; it all gets smeared or kissed off within 20 minutes. Everyone has been crying black-beaded tears of mascara and perspiration for hours. Tights, stockings and leggings stick to skinny and pudgy calves; girls are taking it in turn to hold their legs under the hand-drier.

A transvestite is locked in one of the loos. Girls are using the men's toilet. The men are going outside, using a hedge. Back on the dance floor, Bernie is tracing out his life history with his feet, for the benefit of a pretty girl with dyed blood-red hair. She is fascinated with his knees, and dancing well for someone who obviously never loved Morrissey.

Bernie is scheduling his world-surfing, alcohol-fueled smile to coincide with the end of the song, and she will be doomed, and in love, for ever then. He will throw the rest of the room into violence, and she will think everyone else in the world inferior for ever afterwards. She looks drunk enough to.

Saturday shimmers on to the horizon. Some people are in love; some people are in lust... two people are locked in the toilets, seemingly for ever... but we are sitting on the wall outside the club, waiting for the sun to rise, and the new day to break over us and wash us clean; and for Bernie to remember the phone number of the mini-cab firm he pre-booked to the wrong club.

## GUILTY SECRET: Mary Whitehouse

"I love watching the nature programmes, such as the David Attenborough series *The Living Planet*. They show you places and situations you would never normally see. I also enjoy sport. Tennis is number one for me but I'm very happy to watch snooker and even the football. I used to be a football fan, you know."

Can you solve this puzzle as fast as Einstein?

7	6	7
3		62
	6	44
	433	
34411		

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